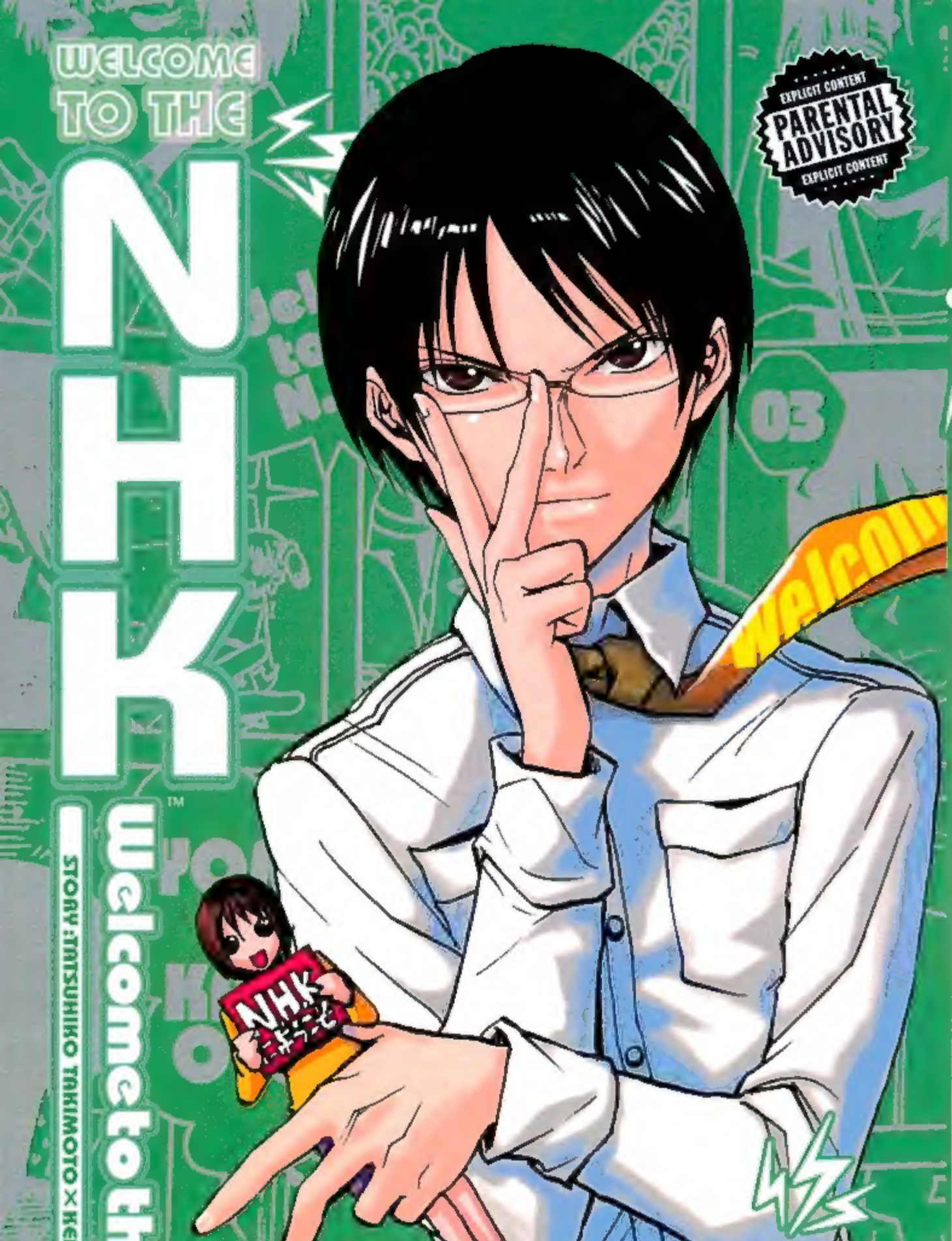
WELCOME TO THE

NHK

™

welcome to the N.H.K.

STORY: TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO × ILLUSTRATION: KENDI OIUMI COMIC



VIZ SELECT

The existence of the evil organization of "NHK", I happened to find it.All the reasons why I dropped out from the university, being unemployed and"Hikikomori" - homebody young person - are due to NHK's conspiracy. I'll keep fighting [illegible] vice organization.But one day, an accessory [illegible] show up to kill me.She is a neat and beautiful girl, [illegible] a parasite.Who is she? What can save [illegible] eroticism, violence and drug? Love, [illegible] ultimate non-stop Hikikomori Action Comedy!

03

LONG, LONG AGO, THERE WAS A GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN HUMANS AND BEASTS.

Welcome to the N.H.K

!

THE WORLD WAS RULED BY THE SWORD AND BY MAGIC, AND CHAOS SPREAD ACROSS THE LAND LIKE A DISEASE...

THERE WERE SOME BEINGS WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP HOPE, BUT RATHER, SET OFF ON A EPIC QUEST.

ようこそ!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

原作 滝本竜彦

漫画 大石けんじ

STORY:TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO × KENDI OIWA:COMIC

NHK

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■Story : TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO ■Comic : KENDI OIWA ■Cover Design and Photo : GICHI OHTSUKA (UNDERSELL Inc.)

Welcome to the N.H.K.

VOLUME 3

By Tatsuhiko Takimoto and Kendi Oiwa

Welcome to the N.H.K. Vol. 3
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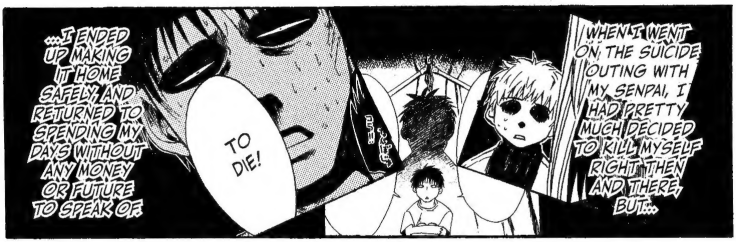
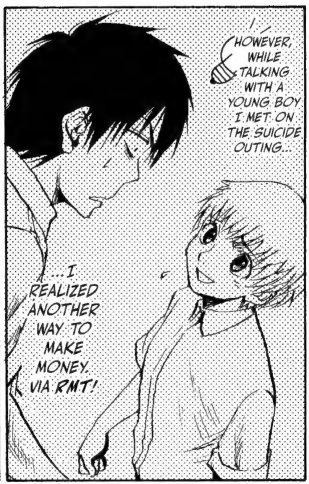
Chapter 11 Welcome to the ONLINE!

FZX1 FOR SHORT! I'M COMPLETELY OBSESSED WITH THIS GAME!
ONLINE RPG "FIRE FANTASY W1"!!


...I ENDED UP MAKING IT HOME SAFELY, AND RETURNED TO SPENDING MY DAYS WITHOUT ANY MONEY OR FUTURE TO SPEAK OF.
TO DIE!
WHEN I WENT ON THE SUICIDE OUTING WITH MY SENPAI, I HAD PRETTY MUCH DECIDED TO KILL MYSELF RIGHT THEN AND THERE, BUT...

I THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D MAKE A KILLING WITH IT, BUT...
RMT CONSISTS OF CONVERTING ITEMS FOUND IN VIDEOGAMES INTO REAL MONEY TRADE.
SAT...


HOWEVER, WHILE TALKING WITH A YOUNG BOY I MET ON THE SUICIDE OUTING...
...I REALIZED ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE MONEY. VIA RMT!

S-SATOU-KUN?! NO WONDER YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN UP TO COUNSELING THIS WEEK!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT PLAYING GAMES IN YOUR ROOM THE WHOLE TIME!
C-COME--
COME ON, SATOU-KUN! SNAP OUT OF IT!

* See glossary on p.196.

Excuse me! We're looking for some teleporters!

Shout Mode*

.....

I GOT A HOLD OF THE KEY FOR TODAY!

YOU BET!

GREAT! LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!

YEAH, THE REAL WORLD CAN BE A HASSLE, BUT WE'VE JUST STARTED THIS ONE, TOO.

WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME MORE COMPANIONS TO JOIN US ON THE DRAGON HUNT.

*A player mode that allows characters far away to hear you

My partner and I are looking to pay around 500G for two!

...

THIS CAT-EARED GIRL'S NAME IS MIA. IN THIS WORLD OF VINA'TIEL...

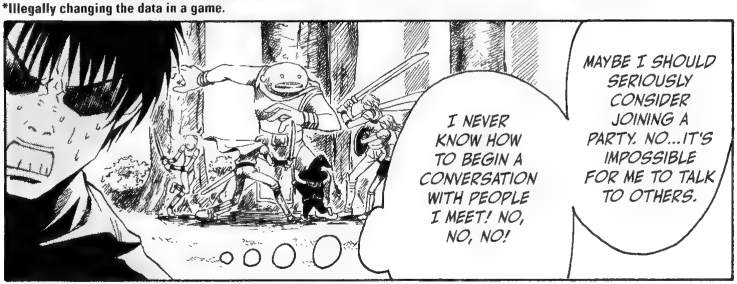
...SHE'S THE ONE BEING THAT I CAN OPEN UP TO.

...I TRIED TO FIGURE IT OUT BY MYSELF. BUT BEFORE LONG, I REALIZED THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T DO ALONE.

AT FIRST, WHEN I STILL DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE GAME...

EVEN IF I DEFEAT AN ENEMY AS STRONG AS THIS, I STILL DON'T GAIN ANY EXPERIENCE POINTS?!
DAMN IT! ANOTHER LEVEL 13?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
DAMN IT! HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE ANY MONEY WITH RMT?!
AND I STILL ONLY HAVE 100G IN THE BANK!
At this rate, I'll have to resort to using cheats and codes*

*Illegally changing the data in a game.


I NEVER KNOW HOW TO BEGIN A CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE I MEET! NO, NO, NO!
MAYBE I SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER JOINING A PARTY. NO...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO TALK TO OTHERS.

!
SOMEBODY, HELP MEEEE! \('Д')/
HELP!!
Say Mode*
*A player mode where only characters in close proximity to you can hear what you say.
?!
*A command that allows your character to execute a particular action
FIRE!!
HELL FIRE! BURN THIS DEMON THAT DARES STAND IN MY WAY!
Command*

TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!

YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU MUST BE A MAGIC WARRIOR, RIGHT?!

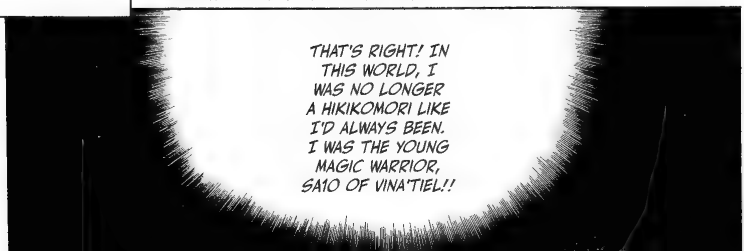
……

I'M...
OH! MY HANDLE* IS "MIA"! AND YOU ARE?
ER, YEAH, I AM.
THAT'S SO COOL!
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME ON AN ADVENTURE?!
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'M A HEALER!

*A handle is a user's alias in cyberspace.

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D REACHED LEVEL 38 AND HAD THREE OF THE SHELL RINGS* IN MY INVENTORY.
AFTER THAT, MIA AND I TEAMED UP WHEN THE OCCASION AROSE.

* An item that appears when you join up with other players to partake in the same mission.



WHAT ON EARTH'S HAPPENED HERE?!

* The Real world

AND WHAT'S THAT FACE SATOU-KUN'S MAKING WHEN HE LOOKS AT THAT CAT-EARED GIRL ON THE MONITOR?

.....

HEE!

MO...

CLIK!

CLIK!

CLIK!

IN THAT CASE, IN ORDER TO DRAG HIM OUT OF HERE...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO!

OH MY GOD!

IT... IT CAN'T BE! IS SATOU-KUN INTO THAT SORT OF THING?!

WAIT FOR ME, SATOU-KUN!

WHAT IS IT, *SAIO-KUN*?

HMPH!

BUT LET'S FACE IT, THE REAL WORLD'S A HASSLE. IT DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST VINA'TIEL!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

OFFLINER?! DO YOU MEAN YOUR FAMILY? LIKE A BROTHER?

HUH? OH, JUST THERE'S AN ANNOYING OFFLINER IN THE REAL WORLD.

We're pathetic!

TO BE HONEST, I'M STARTING TO LOSE TRACK OF WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S NOT ANYMORE.

HA HA HA HA!

Meoooow!

UH...SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SPENDING ALMOST 20 HOURS A DAY HERE LATELY!

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE ALMOST ALWAYS HERE, *SAIO-KUN*.

BY SORA

THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR MY WHOLE LIFE!

MEOW?!

THIS IS IT!

NOTHING AFFECTS ME THE WAY THINGS DO IN HERE.

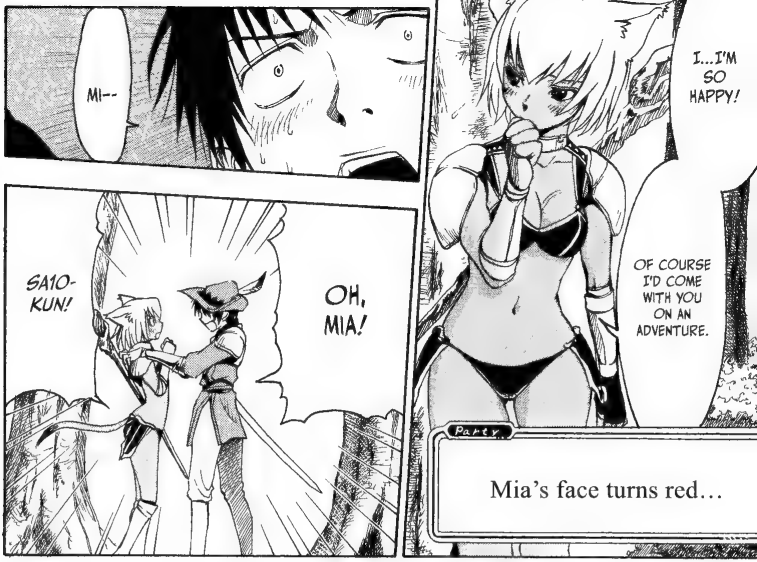
TH-

TH-

TH-

WHY HAVEN'T I REALIZED IT UNTIL NOW?! AFTER ALL...
...THERE'S NOTHING IN THE REAL WORLD THAT'S WORTH MORE THAN WHAT'S RIGHT HERE!
PEOPLE IN THE REAL WORLD SPOUT OFF ABOUT LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP AND WHATNOT, BUT...
...IT'S REALLY NOTHING BUT A FILTHY WORLD CONSUMED WITH PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND ROMANTIC FANTASIES!
おぉおおお
BUT IN THIS WORLD, I CAN GO ON MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES AND FIND TRUE COMPANIONSHIP!

MIA!!
!!
I FEEL LIKE I GET ALONG WITH YOU BETTER THAN I EVER HAVE WITH ANOTHER PERSON!
WOULD YOU CONTINUE WITH ME ON THIS ADVENTURE?!


MI--
SA10-KUN!
OH, MIA!
I...I'M SO HAPPY!
OF COURSE I'D COME WITH YOU ON AN ADVENTURE.
Party
Mia's face turns red…

SATOU-KUN!!

M-MEOW!

MEEOOOW?!
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU POOR EXCUSE FOR A CAT! YOU FLAT-AS-A-WALL GIRL!
KEEP IT DOWN WHEN I'M PLAYING MY GAME!
If you wanna cosplay, go to Comiket!
I SWEAR, IF YOU INTERRUPT ME ONE MORE TIME, I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU, MISAKI-CHAN!
WHAT'S WITH THE MEOWS? ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE OUT OF OUR RELATION-SHIP?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SA1O-KUN? YOU'VE BEEN SIGHING A LOT.
YEAH, SOME WEIRD PERSON SHOWED UP AT MY HOUSE. IT'S BEEN...MORE THAN A PAIN.
SIGH...
FOR SOME REASON, IT'S BEEN REALLY HECTIC AROUND HERE LATELY.
ずず…
LIKE, I ENDED UP ATTENDING A SUICIDE OUTING BEFORE I EVEN KNEW WHAT ONE WAS...
I SEE. YOUR REAL LIFE MUST BE REALLY HARD, SA1O-KUN.

Meow!
OKAY! STAY HERE FOR SEC!
YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'D BE PERFECT FOR TAKING DOWN A DRAGON. LET'S TEAM UP WITH HIM!
YEAH, WELL ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. NOW WE HAVE THE DRAGON HUNT TO FOCUS ON.
OH! THAT PERSON'S A DRAGON KNIGHT!
.....
.....
.....
NO GOOD! HE WAS FRENCH!
Meow!
I couldn't understand what he was saying!
MIA-SAN!
WE CAME TO HELP YOU WITH THE DRAGON HUNT!

Meoooow!
THAT'S GREAT! YOU ALL HAVE SHELL RINGS! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
SORRY FOR THE DELAY.
YOU MENTIONED THIS WAS YOUR FIRST DRAGON HUNT, SAIO, SO WE CAME RUNNING.
OH! THANKS!
THE DRAGON WE'RE FACING TODAY REQUIRES LEVEL 20 AT LEAST, SO STAY FOCUSED!
OKAY! I LOOK FORWARD TO TEAMING UP!
READY, GUYS? LET'S GO!

▲ Dragon Gate

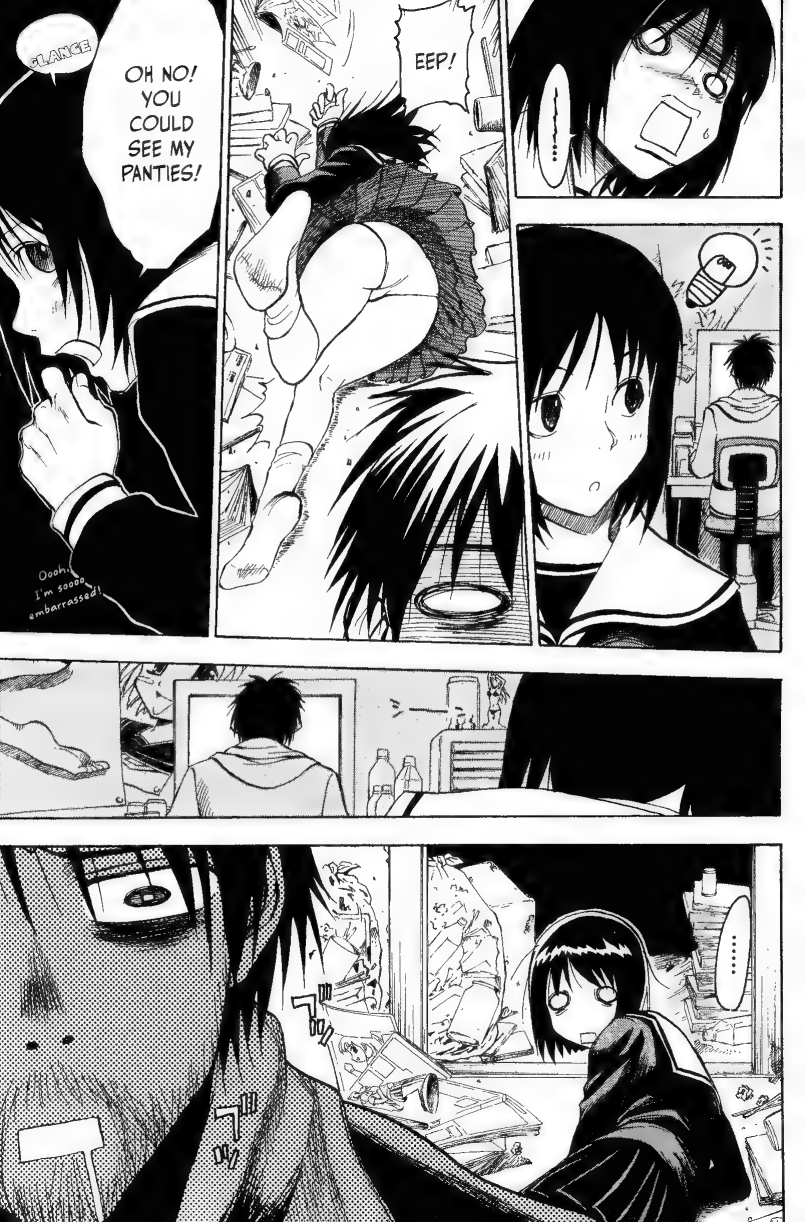
OH, WHITE WINGS, PROTECT MY FRIENDS! *REJUVENATION!*

BLACK GALE, RESIDE WITHIN MY BLADE!! *THUNDER BLADE!!*

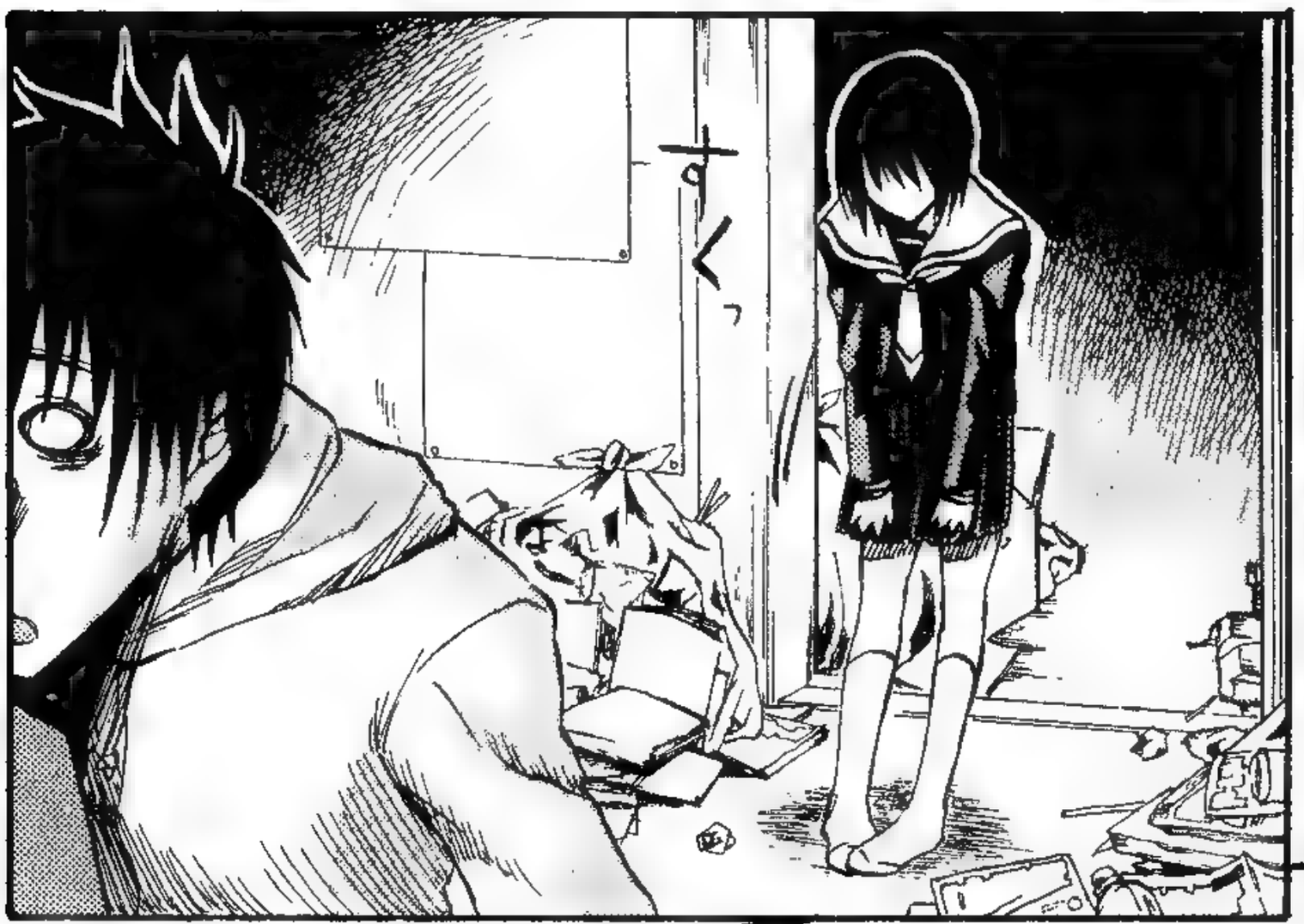
BY KAZUMA

UWAAAAAAAAH!

SEIYOU
SEIYOU
SATOU-KUN! I BOUGHT SOME GROCERIES AND I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A HOME-COOKED MEAL!
LOOK AT THIS! I'M WEARING MY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM!
...
!
UH, OKAY THEN, I'LL JUST USE THE KITCHEN IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHATEVER.
グチャ


GLANCE
OH NO! YOU COULD SEE MY PANTIES!
Oooh, I'm soooo embarrassed!
EEP!
.....
.....

じわっ


ナゼ

AW, IT WAS NOTHING. I NEVER PASS THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO TAKE DOWN A DRAGON!

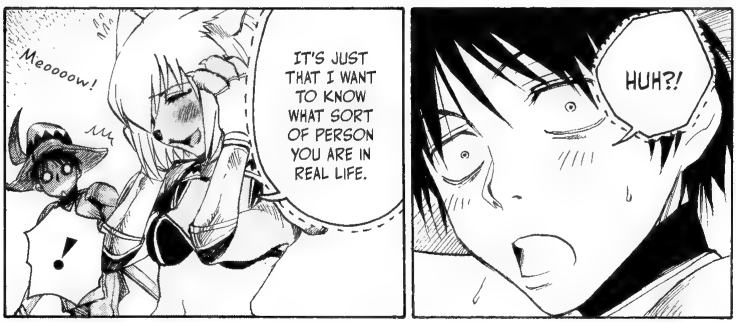
YOU ALL DID A GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!

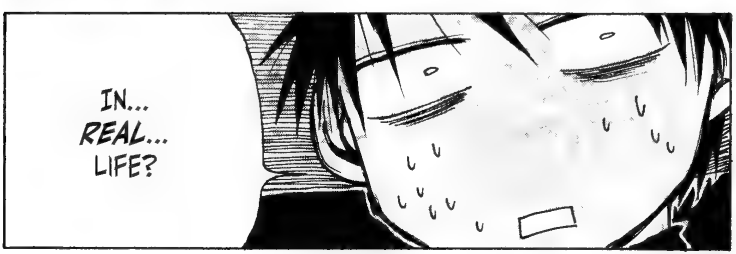
SEE? HE WASN'T AS TOUGH AS HE LOOKS.

ALL RIGHT!

HUH? WHAT IS IT, MIA-SAN? (Tell Mode)
HEY, SA1O-KUN?
*Tell Mode
SURE THING! GOOD JOB, GUYS!
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT TO GET TO MY PART-TIME JOB IN THE REAL WORLD, SO I'LL HAVE TO SEE YOU LATER!
UH-OH! I'VE GOT WORK, TOO! TILL NEXT TIME!

* A player mode that allows you to talk privately to another player.





THE REAL... ME?
……
GASP!
ドーン
プル プル

HUFF

HUFF

AAAA

くぅ
？
ﾊﾚ
？
ひょこっ
Dear Satou-kun,
I've already gone home. Please try not to damage your body by playing too much.
-Misaki
！

Dear Satou-kun,
I've already gone home. Please try not to damage your body by playing too much. And please eat this food before it goes cold.
-Misaki

YOU'RE THE ONLY...

...ONE I HAVE LEFT.

IS THAT *TRUE?*

DO

MISAKI-CHAN?!

HUH?!

IF IT IS, SATOU-KUN...
...THEN I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME SOME *PROOF!*

HUH?!

...WHEN HE FINDS OUT HIS PRECIOUS MIA HAS BEEN *ME* THIS WHOLE TIME.
OH, BUT I WISH I COULD SEE THE LOOK ON SATOU-KUN'S FACE...
Welcome to the ONLINE!
SATOU-KUN...I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP ON OUR HENTAI GAME JUST YET!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

#11 Welcome to the ONLINE!

Continued in Episode #12...

Welcome to the NHK! 4-Panel Comic — #9

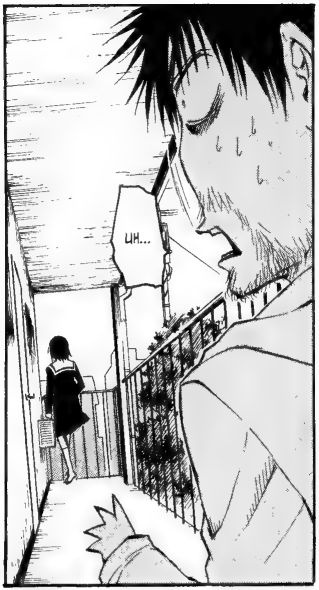
THE YOUNG HERO OF VINA TIEL!
I AM THE MAGIC WARRIOR, SAIO!
...BECAUSE I AM THE GREATEST ADVENTURER!
THERE'S NOT A SOUL IN THIS WORLD THAT DOESN'T KNOW MY NAME...
BUT IN REAL LIFE, YOU'RE STILL NOTHING BUT A HIKIKOMORI.
PLAY ONLINE GAMES ONLY IN MODERATION!

Or you will forget what is reality and what is fantasy!

Shonen Ace!!

Chapter 12 Welcome to the LOCKED ROOM!

THAT'S RIGHT, SATOU-KUN! I COULD EASILY FORGET...
...A NET-JUNKIE LIKE YOU AT ANY TIME!
I SHOULDN'T EVEN WASTE MY TIME TALKING TO GARBAGE LIKE YOU.
.....
BUT FINE! I HAVE TO MAKE SOME PREPARATIONS, SO GO SHAVE OFF THAT SCRUFFY BEARD.
THEN GET DRESSED AND WAIT FOR ME.
HUH?
GET DRESSED?


UH...

I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH WHATEVER SHE ASKS IF I EVER HOPE TO WIN BACK HER TRUST.
IT'S PROBABLY ASKING TOO MUCH TO TRY AND MAKE UP NOW.

MISAKI-CHAN REALLY IS MAD AT ME!

OH! M-MISAKI-CHAN! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE THINKING OF FORGIVING ME, ARE YOU?
ゆら…
SATOU-KUN!
ぷっ
ぷっ
UH...MISAKI-CHAN? WHAT ARE WITH THOSE...FREAKY THINGS YOU'RE HOLDING?

PROMISE ME, SATOU-KUN, PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T RESIST NO MATTER WHAT I DO TO YOU!
EXCUSE ME?!
STARTING NOW, I'M BORROWING YOUR HOME FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
I SWEAR I WON'T DO ANYTHING YOU'LL *DISLIKE*. THIS IS AN INTERVENTION TO HELP YOU BECOME A *MAN*!
IN OTHER WORDS...
...I REALIZE NOW THAT OUR COUNSELING SESSIONS WEREN'T NEARLY ENOUGH TO HELP YOU.
THAT'S WHY... I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU UNDERGO AN INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE!
I-IT'S BECAUSE Y-YOU'RE SO IMPORTANT TO M-ME!!

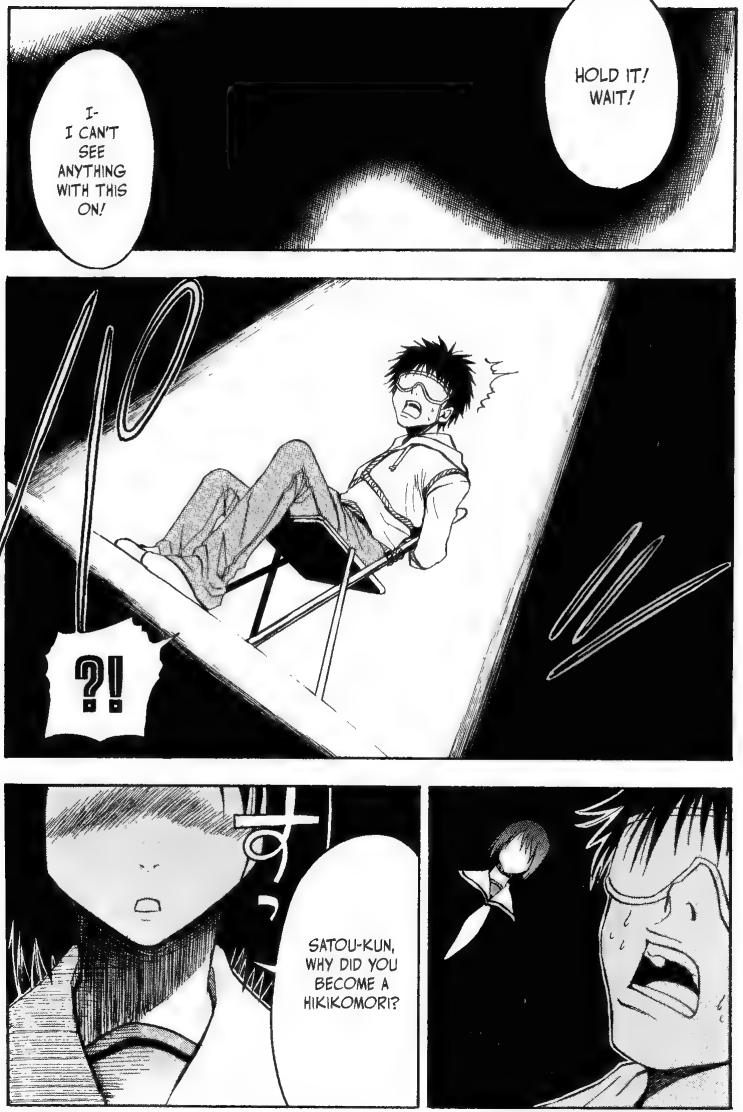
NOW, WAIT INSIDE THERE FOR A MINUTE!
HUH?!
HEY! HOLD IT! WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY MAN?! AND WHAT'S WITH THIS INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE?!
WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT'S SHE PLANNING ON DOING TO ME?
AND BY MAN, DID SHE MEAN--OH MY GOD!
SATOU-KUN... YOU CAN LOOK NOW.

MISAKI-CHAN!
IT COULDN'T BE, COULD IT?! I'M NOT SURE, BUT I DID SEE SOMETHING ON TV THE OTHER DAY! THEY SAID HOW HIKIKOMORI ARE LACKING IN PHYSICAL CONTACT!
IS SHE GOING TO TEACH ME THE WAYS OF THE FLESH?!
So gooood!
AH!
AH!
Oh! Satou-kun! You're so incredible!

SERIOUSLY?! FOR REAL?!
DOES THIS MEAN I'M FINALLY GOING TO LOSE MY VIRGINITY?!
MISAKI-CHAN, I-I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS.
SATOU-KUN!
Waah! Losing lots of blood!
Master...
SATOU-KUN... USE THESE RESTRAINTS...
...AND DO WITH ME AS YOU WISH.
Gah!
?!

Eeek!
UH, I-I DUNNO. I'M NOT READY FOR THIS!
I'M READY. COME WITH ME.
?!

NOW THEN, SATOU-KUN, SIT HERE AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK.
OH!
B-BLACK-OUT CURTAINS?
IT'D BE EMBAR-RASSING IF ANYONE OUTSIDE SAW US.
Now put your hands behind you!
JUST DO IT!
HUH? WHAT SORT OF FOREPLAY IS THIS?
M-M-M-MISAKI-CHAN?!
!
!


HOLD IT! WAIT!
I- I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WITH THIS ON!
?!
SATOU-KUN, WHY DID YOU BECOME A HIKIKOMORI?

WHOA!
HUH?
.....
I WANT TO HELP YOU BECOME A MAN.
I SHALL ENLIGHTEN YOU!
IN ORDER TO REFORM THE ROTTEN APPLE THAT IS YOU INTO AN HONEST MAN, WE MUST BREAK YOU DOWN IN ONE FELLL SWOOP!
FIRST WE MUST THOROUGHLY DESTROY ALL TRACES OF YOUR CURRENT SELF WITH VERBAL ABUSE!
Happy
Welcome to the Happy land!!
HAHA

S-
S-
S-
S-
YOU MUST STICK IT OUT, EVEN IF IT'S HARD.
WHAAAAAAT?!
STOP FUCKIN' AROUND WITH ME!
I MEAN, JUST LET ME *DO IT* WITH YOU!
DO IT? DO WHAT?
!

Waaaaaah!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TIED TO A CHAIR! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO VINA'TIEL AND APOLOGIZE TO MIA-SAN!
ER, UH... N-NO, I MEANT. DO THE GAME...
GAME?
SHIT! THAT'S RIGHT!
I STILL HAVEN'T LOGGED OUT OF MY GAME YET!
GASP!
N-NO! LET ME GO RIGHT NOW! LET ME SEE MIA-SAN!
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE. THIS LESSON ISN'T OVER UNTIL YOU'VE CHANGED.

SATOU-KUN...
YOU'RE STILL UNEMPLOYED, AREN'T YOU? AND YET YOU PLAY COMPUTER GAMES ALL DAY LONG?
JUST WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MONEY FROM?
I-I ASKED MY PARENTS FOR ANOTHER ALLOWANCE AGAIN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH IT COSTS FOR A PARENT TO PUT A CHILD THROUGH COLLEGE?
UH... HOW MUCH?

READY FOR THIS? BEING THAT YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS PRETTY AVERAGE...
...FIRST WE HAVE 400,000 YEN FOR PREGNANCY AND DELIVERY. THEN, 500,000 YEN FOR DAY-CARE FEES.
600,000 YEN FOR KINDERGARTEN, FOLLOWING BY 1,800,000 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND 1,100,000 YEN FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HIGH SCHOOL IS 1,500,000 YEN AND YOU WENT TO A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY, SO THAT WAS 1,000,000 AND MORE PER SCHOOL YEAR, WITH 1,500,000 YEN AS A FIRST YEAR AND ENTRY FEE.
ADD ONTO THAT LIVING EXPENSES AND TUTORING LESSONS UP THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL...
...AND YOU COME UP WITH... 20,000,000 YEN! THAT'S ENOUGH TO PAY A HIT MAN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY TO KILL 20 PEOPLE!
!
AND YET DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU DROPPED OUT OF UNIVERSITY EARLY, YOU DON'T WORK, AND YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
YOUR MOTHER MUST BE IN TEARS BY NOW! AND DON'T *BOTH* OF YOUR PARENTS WORK?!
DON'T YOU SEE HOW HARD THEY WORK TO SUPPORT YOU?!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A HIKIKOMORI!
B-BUT... I'LL WORK SOMEDAY! THEN, I'LL PAY MY PARENTS BACK IN FULL!
HAH?
HIKIKOMORI DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK! YOU'RE LIVING PROOF OF THAT!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE AND YOU KNOW IT!
THAT'S RIGHT. IF THE WORLD WERE A VILLAGE OF ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE... YOU'D BE NUMBER 1,000 ON THE LIST!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A WASTE OF SPACE, NO GOOD TO ANYONE!
!

IF YOU CONTINUE LIKE THIS, YOU'LL BE BACK AT YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE, LIVING OFF OF THEM UNTIL YOU'RE FIFTY!
THAT'S AS FAR AS A NEET* CAN GO! HAVE SOME PRIDE AND APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE!
* NEET: Not in Employment, Education or Training
I-I'M SORRY.
FATHER
MOTHER
THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW, I...
TATSU-HIRO?

WHAT DO YA WANT?!
DINNER'S READY.
WOULD YOU SHUT UP, YOU OLD MAID?! QUIT BOTHERING ME!
HE'S ALREADY FIFTY YEARS OLD. THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HIM.
BUT, DEAR...
JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE.

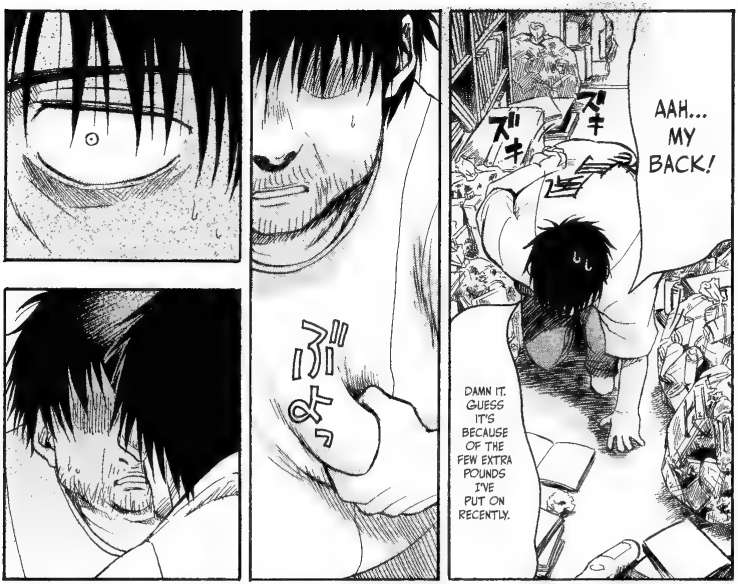
HMPH!

BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM STAY UNEMPLOYED AT HIS AGE!
YOU SAY THAT, BUT THEN YOU GO AND DONATE TO SOME RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION AGAIN?!
風花

LET 'EM SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT!
POTATO
SHINI SARASE

Up we go..
I'LL BEAT YOU TWO IDIOTS WITH MY CONFUSION SPELL!
OW!

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT I'M A LEVEL 15,000 MAGIC WARRIOR!
I'M A LEGENDARY HERO, REVERED BY ALL!


ぶよっ
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ズキ
AAH... MY BACK!
DAMN IT. GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FEW EXTRA POUNDS I'VE PUT ON RECENTLY.

THERE'S NO DENYING THE REALITY OF THINGS.
AND IN DUE TIME, YOUR PARENTS WILL PASS AWAY! YOU'LL BE A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD UNEMPLOYED HIKIKOMORI, THROWN OUT INTO THE BITTER COLD!
ガクリ
NO...
...IT CAN'T END LIKE THAT.
NOOO

ビュ
OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO KEEP A JOB, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO DRAG AROUND A CART, WANDERING FROM TOWN TO TOWN.
Uugh...
You mother fucker, this is our turf, ya hear?!
Eek!
YOU'LL HAVE TO COLLECT GARBAGE AND EVERYONE WILL TEASE YOU.
THEN, IN THE END, SLEEPING UNDERNEATH A BRIDGE SOMEWHERE, YOU'LL...

BUT DESPITE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A DREARY END, I SHALL NOT ABANDON YOU.
MISAKI-CHAN.
THAT IS WHY YOU MUST LISTEN TO EVERY WORD I SAY FROM NOW ON.
BELIEVE ONLY IN ME. RELY 100% ON ME.
Oooh, Mariaaa!

TOTAL BRAINWASH MANUAL
LIGHT AND DARK
TOTAL BRA
OKAY?
.....
ガクリ
GASP!
OOPS!
QUIT MESSING WITH MY HEAD! YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
WHY, YOU...
IT'S.. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
N-NO!
ブンブンブン

C-CALM DOWN, SATOU-KUN!
ENOUGH OF THIS! HOW THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO CALM DOWN?! AND WHAT'S WITH THAT TOTAL BRAINWASH MANUAL?! HOW CAN YOU PUT ME IN ONE OF YOUR TWISTED SIMULATIONS?!
LEAVE ME...
AND WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH NOT GOING OUTSIDE AND ENJOYING THE INTERNET? PEOPLE DO THAT ALL THE TIME THESE DAYS!
BESIDES, ONLINE... I'M POPULAR! LET ME GO BACK TO VINA'TIEL!
...THE FUCK ALONE, DAMMIT!
HEY! AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, AREN'T YOU LIKE, 17?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL AT THIS TIME OF DAY, INSTEAD OF THIS?!

!
OMIGOD, DON'T TELL ME!
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE KIDS WHO PLAY HOOKY ALL THE TIME?!
I BET YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FRIENDS!

!
ペタ
SATOU-KUN, YOU IDIOT!
MMM!
MMPH!
!
ドン

MMM!
(Don't leave me!)
MMM!
MMMM!
(Hey! Wait!)
MMMMPH!
(I can't move like this!)
MM-MMMMPH?
(Misaki-chan?)
.....
!
MMM!
キャリぁ～
Mita House

IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE THEN, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE THING TO EAT OR DRINK.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL DIE WITHOUT EVER SEEING ANYONE AGAIN.
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED MY LIFE WOULD END THIS WAY?
NO! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I'M STILL A VIRGIN!

YES! THAT'S RIGHT! I THREW THE KEYBOARD ON THE FLOOR THAT DAY!
EVEN IF IT WERE UNPLUGGED, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE LOGGED OUT YET! I'M SAVED!
ガタ
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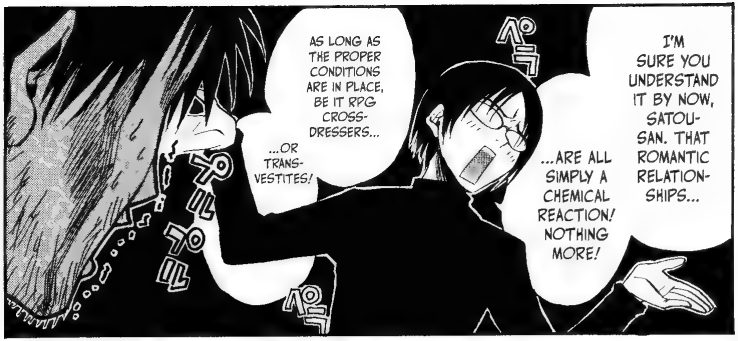
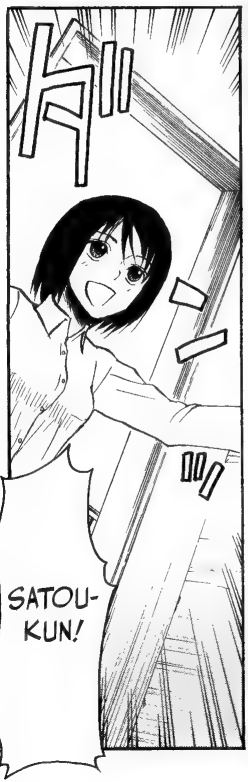
ガタ
ガタ

YES! NOW ALL I HAVE DO IS WAIT...
はぁ
はぁ
SOMEBODY IS BOUND TO SHOW UP.
ビクッ
!
WH-WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, SATOU-SAN?!
What sort of fetish is this?!
MMMMPH?
D-DON'T WORRY!
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, SO STAY STILL!

Y-YAMAZAKI?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I GOT YOUR FREAKY E-MAIL JUST A SECOND AGO.
GASP
Y-Y-YOU MEAN, YAMAZAKI, YOU... WERE...
YES! THAT'S RIGHT! I AM MIA!
BOY, WERE YOU FOOLED, SATOU-SAN!


I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND IT BY NOW, SATOU-SAN. THAT ROMANTIC RELATION-SHIPS...
...ARE ALL SIMPLY A CHEMICAL REACTION! NOTHING MORE!
AS LONG AS THE PROPER CONDITIONS ARE IN PLACE, BE IT RPG CROSS-DRESSERS...
...OR TRANS-VESTITES!


SATOU-KUN!

NOW THEN! YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSONS NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
SO HOLD ONTO THAT ANGER AND USE IT TO CREATE OUR HENTAI GAME!

SINKING SHIP...?
Uh, Satou-san?
PLUNK!

GRRUUUMBLE
HUH?

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND I'VE COME TO REALIZE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
...TO REMODEL YOUR BRAIN USING SUCH DRASTIC METHODS.
WHAT YOU NEED IS LONG-TERM CARE!

Welcome to the LOCKED ROOM!
Mita House
...YOU TWO ARE REALLY ALIKE.

THAT'S WHY, STARTING TODAY, YOU AND I ARE LIVING TOGETHER IN THIS APARTMENT!
I'LL BREAK YOU THROUGH CONSTANT SUPERVISION!

ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS, MISAKI-SAN, BUT...
?

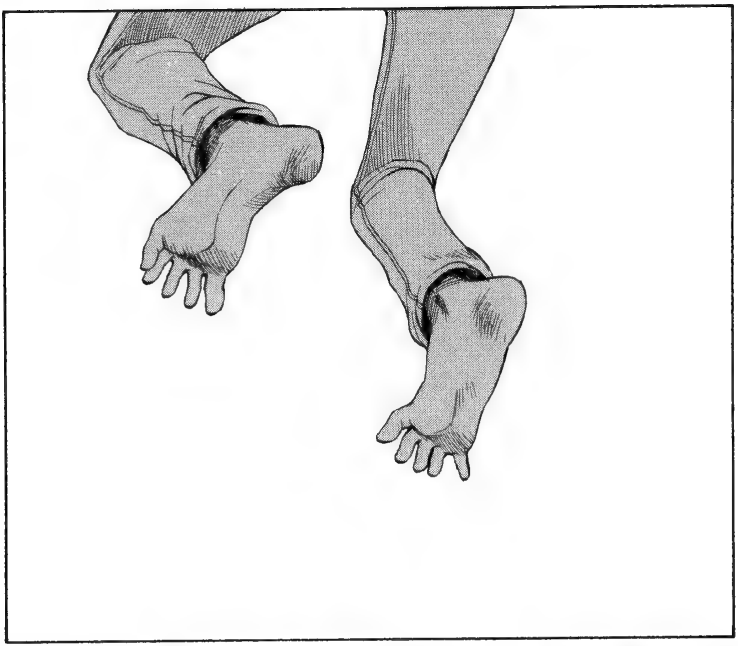
HUH? SATOU-KUN, HOW'D YOU GET SO THIN?

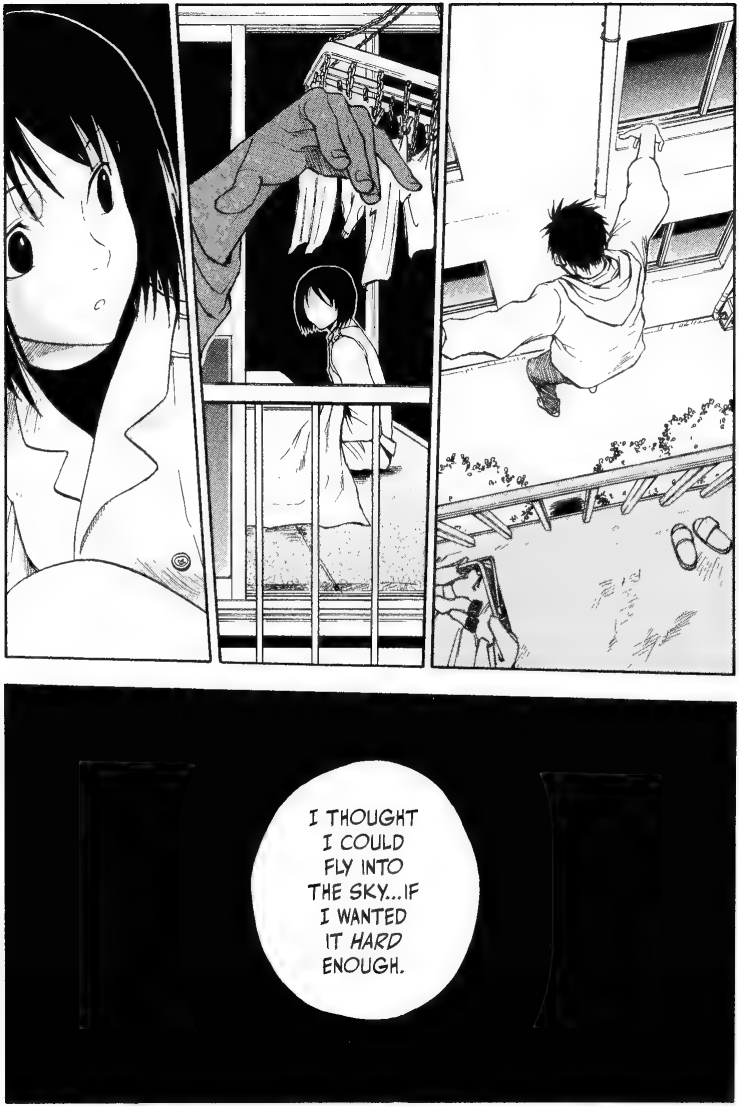
Welcome to the H.H.K.

#12 Welcome to the LOCKED ROOM!

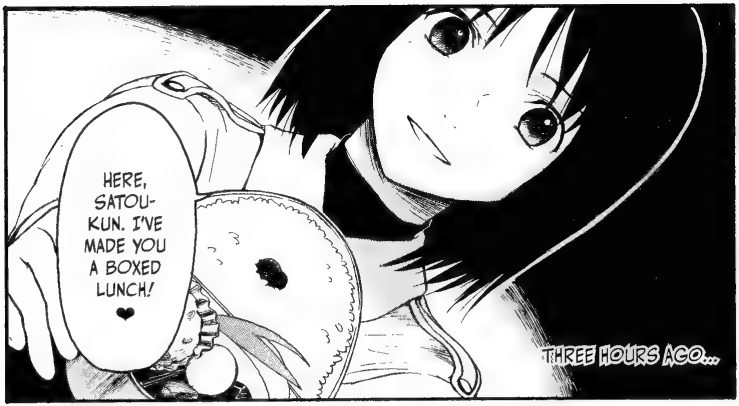
Continued in Episode #13...

Welcome to the NHK!
4-Panel Comic — #10
SATOU-KUN! I'LL BE LIVING HERE WITH YOU...
...UNTIL YOU'VE FULLY RE-COVERED!
T-TOGETHER? AS IN LIVE TOGETHER?!
BUT TH-THAT CAN'T HAPPEN! BECAUSE—
I'M SORRY! I ALREADY HAVE A LIFE-SIZED RURIRURI DOLL!
It's all right, Satou-san. My girlfriend is Ayanami!
Just die already!
No really,
It's okay!
Shonen Ace!!




I THOUGHT I COULD FLY INTO THE SKY...IF I WANTED IT *HARD* ENOUGH.

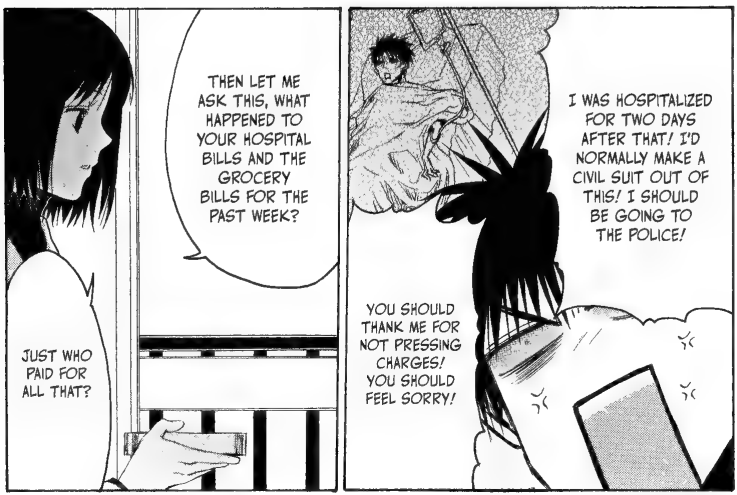
Chapter 13 Welcome to the BLUE BIRD!


HERE, SATOU-KUN. I'VE MADE YOU A BOXED LUNCH!
THREE HOURS AGO...

LET'S SEE, IS YOUR BRAIN FUNCTIONING AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL FOR NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS OR NOT?
WHAT OTHER KIND OF PROBLEM IS THERE?!
SHUT UP! AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU STANDING IN MY ROOM LIKE NOTHING'S ABNORMAL ABOUT IT?! AND WHAT'S WITH THE LUGGAGE?!

N-NO! I DON'T WANT IT! GO HOME ALREADY!
THIS ISN'T THE REAL PROBLEM, IS IT?

HOW RUDE! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
MOVING IN--? WHY SHOULD I LIVE WITH SOME PSYCHO WHO ALMOST STARVED ME TO DEATH?!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I'M MOVING IN!


THEN LET ME ASK THIS, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOSPITAL BILLS AND THE GROCERY BILLS FOR THE PAST WEEK?
JUST WHO PAID FOR ALL THAT?
I WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR TWO DAYS AFTER THAT! I'D NORMALLY MAKE A CIVIL SUIT OUT OF THIS! I SHOULD BE GOING TO THE POLICE!
YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR NOT PRESSING CHARGES! YOU SHOULD FEEL SORRY!

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY CHECKS FROM YOUR PARENTS SINCE LAST MONTH.
THEN, ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU A QUESTION. IT'S ALL THANKS TO WHO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MISAKI-SAMA.
CORRECT! YOU WOULD DO BETTER TO RELY ON ME COMPLETELY FOR YOUR SURVIVAL!
TRUST ONLY ME!

GRUUUMBLE
SATOU-KUN, EVERYBODY HAS HIS OR HER BAD TIMES. SO IT'S ALL RIGHT TO INDULGE IN IT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
ポロ
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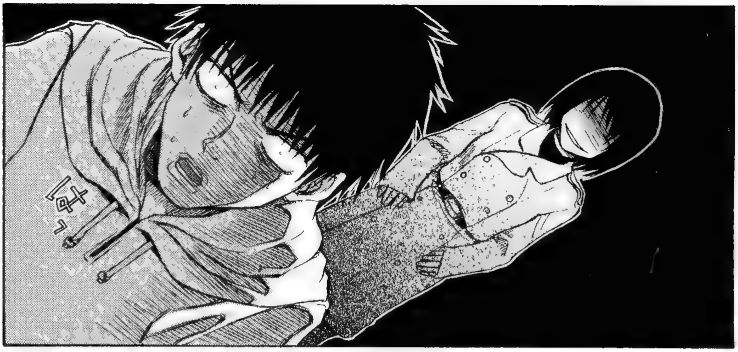
モグ
じゅるるる
モグ
ポロ
I-I CAN GET BY JUST FINE WITHOUT ACCEPTING YOUR CHARITY!
SOB
RIGHT, RIGHT.
ニコ
ニコ
I'M NOT KIDDING! JUST WATCH ME!
I'LL CALL UP MY PARENTS AND ASK THEM TO START SENDING CHECKS AGAIN!
Duh, that's also charity!

I'M SO SORRY! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO CALL YOU, BUT... WELL, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
UH, I'M FINE. JUST FINE. I'M SORRY FOR CALLING SO SUDDENLY.
OH! HEY, MOM? IT'S TATSUHIRO.
HUH? TACCHAN?

WELL, TO BE HONEST...
YUP! I'M EATING GREAT! SO, HOW ARE YOU TWO DOING?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?

...YOUR FATHER QUIT HIS JOB AND HASN'T BEEN WORKING FOR A WHILE.
I'M SORRY, TATSUHIRO. I'D WANTED TO TELL YOU FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT...
HUH?
WOULD YOU MIND WAITING A LITTLE LONGER FOR YOUR NEXT CHECK?
HUH?! UH, S-SURE!
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY! NO, REALLY! IT'S FINE!
I DON'T NEED ANY MORE MONEY! REALLY!
SEE, THING IS I START WORKING NEXT MONTH! Y-YEAH!
SO I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I WON'T BE NEEDING ANY MORE ALLOWANCES!
Heh heh heh
OKAY THEN, STAY HEALTHY, TOO!


ヒュー

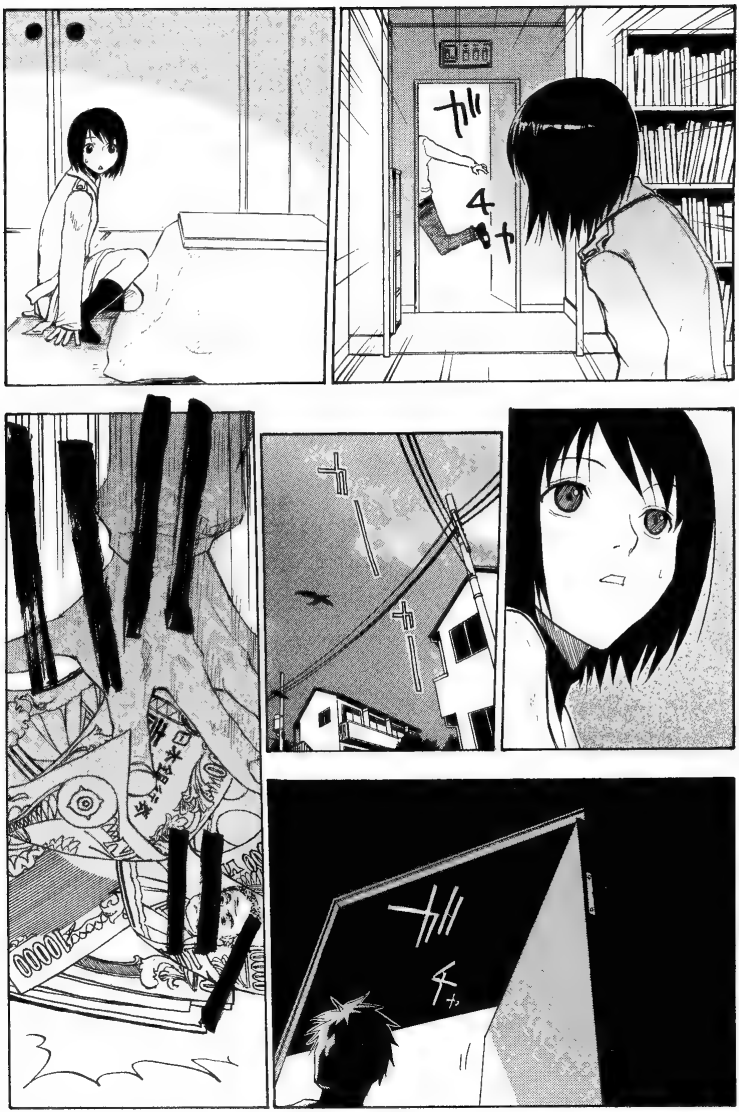
WOW. AND JUST WHEN DID YOU FIND A JOB, SATOU-KUN?

SH-SHUT UP! I'LL START WORKING SOON!
WITHOUT EVEN BEING ABLE TO INTERVIEW?

Hee hee!

I'M NOT WORRIED. I'M SURE YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY FINE, NOW THAT YOUR DAD'S OUT OF WORK.
OH YEAH? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU! I KNOW HOW TO SUPPORT MYSELF!
BESIDES, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
YOU WON'T DIE, SATOU-KUN.
RIGHT?

SHUT UP! QUIT MAKING FUN OF ME!
I'LL SHOW YOU!
I CAN MAKE MORE MONEY THAN I NEED, IF I PUT MY MIND TO IT!
JUST YOU WATCH! I'LL BRING YOU A FAT WAD OF MONEY! I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN!
I'LL MAKE YOU EAT YOUR WORDS WHEN I GET BACK!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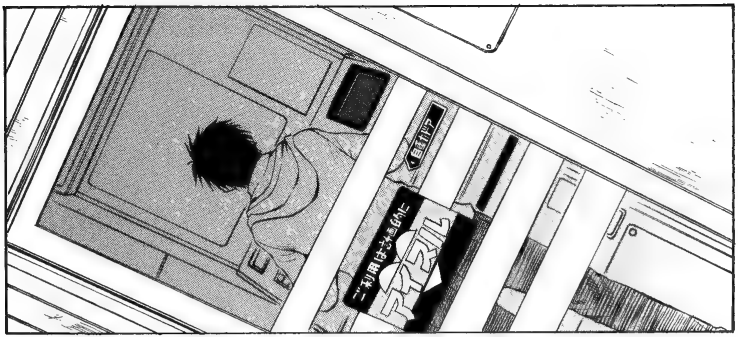
0000!

H-H-HOW DID YOU GET THIS MONEY?
DON'T YOU KNOW, MISAKI-CHAN?
THERE ARE SOME VERY CONVENIENT THINGS IN THIS WORLD...


アイスル

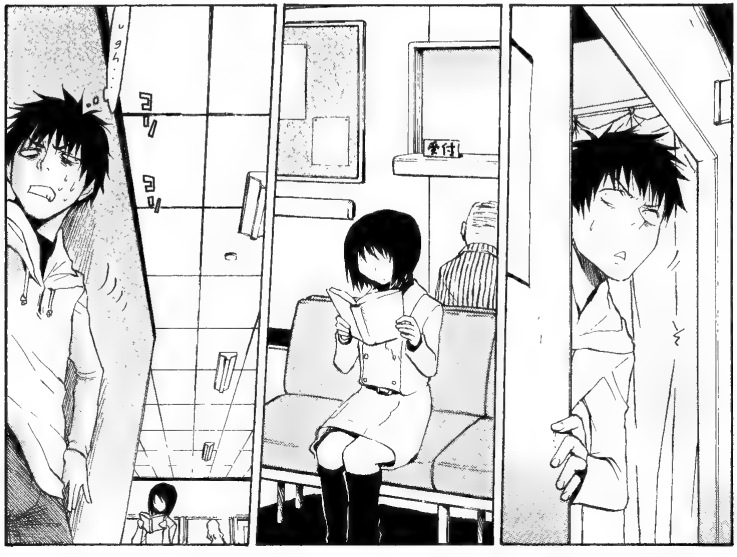
Thank you very much.
Always here for
your convenience.
IS A PIG THAT CAN'T
FLY A BAD PIG?
ペラ
ペラ

IT'S...IT'S REALLY QUITE MYSTERIOUS. I JUST STUCK THIS CARD IN SOME STRANGE MACHINE AND OUT CAME THE MONEY!
UH, NO.
DO YOU HAVE ANY WAY TO PAY IT BACK?

すっ
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE?
ドン

I SEE.
FOR NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME PAINKILLERS AND A COLD WRAP. TRY STAYING OFF OF IT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN FOR THE TIME BEING.
Next, please!

THANKFULLY, IT'S ONLY A MINOR SPRAIN.
BACK IN THE PRESENT...

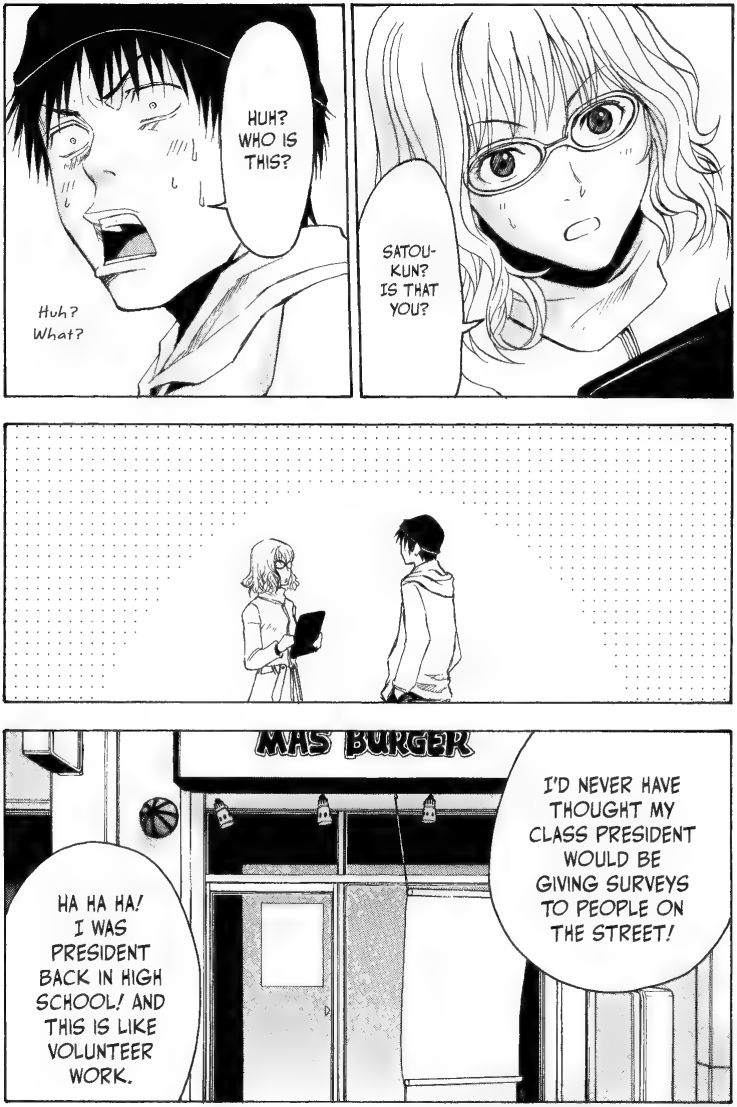

ugh...
受付

Higuchi Hospital
I'M SO SICK OF THIS. I'M SICK OF EVERYTHING!
I'M SICK OF WORKING, EATING...
... THINKING OF OTHERS, AND WHAT OTHERS THINK OF ME...
...ARGUING, AND TAKING, AND LOSING, AND WHATEVER!
SHIT, I JUST WANNA DISAPPEAR!
EXCUSE ME, SIR?

THANK GOODNESS! I WASN'T SURE YOU WERE GOING TO TURN AROUND!
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING A SURVEY? THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE ARE CHOSEN AT RANDOM...
...TO WIN SOME FABULOUS PRIZES! LIKE A RESERVATION TO A FIVE-STAR RESTAURANT, OR A BRAND-NEW DVD PLAYER!
IT WON'T TAKE ANY TIME AT ALL! JUST WRITE DOWN YOUR NAME, AGE, AND OCCUPATION!
SEE? IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!

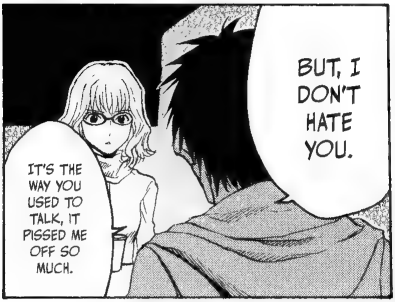
HUH?
I'M A HIKIKOMORI. WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?
IN OTHER WORDS, I HAVE NO *OCCUPATION*. I'VE NEVER EVEN HAD A PART-TIME JOB.
SO I HAVE NO MONEY.
NOW I'M IN DEBT JUST TO STAY ALIVE. I HAVE NO WAY OF PAYING IT BACK AND NOW MY GAS IS GOING TO BE CUT OFF.
BUT THE THING IS, I DON'T WANT TO WORK.
DO YOU REALLY WANT SOMEONE LIKE THAT TO FILL OUT YOUR SURVEY?

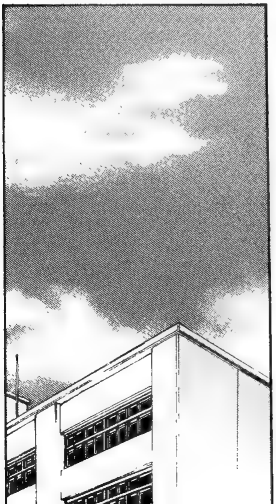
ER, UH... EXCUSE ME! SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU!
!
.....
EXCUSE ME, SIR? WOULD YOU MIND FILLING OUT THIS SHORT SURVEY?
WHAT DID I JUST SAY...?


HUH? WHO IS THIS?
Huh? What?
SATOU-KUN? IS THAT YOU?
MAS BURGER
I'D NEVER HAVE THOUGHT MY CLASS PRESIDENT WOULD BE GIVING SURVEYS TO PEOPLE ON THE STREET!
HA HA HA! I WAS PRESIDENT BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL! AND THIS IS LIKE VOLUNTEER WORK.

VOLUNTEER? STILL ACTING LIKE THE PRESIDENT, HUH?
EXCUSE ME? AND WHAT'S WITH THAT TONE OF VOICE?
NOTHING!
SURE IT'S NOTHING!
I SWEAR, SATOU-KUN, YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
DO YOU STILL HATE ME, EVEN NOW?

MAYBE I DO!
MY GOD! YOU CAN'T JUST SAY THAT TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT!


BUT, I DON'T HATE YOU.
IT'S THE WAY YOU USED TO TALK, IT PISSED ME OFF SO MUCH.

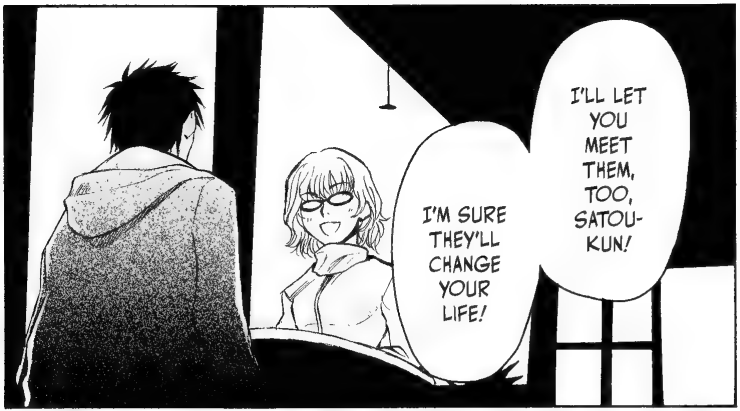


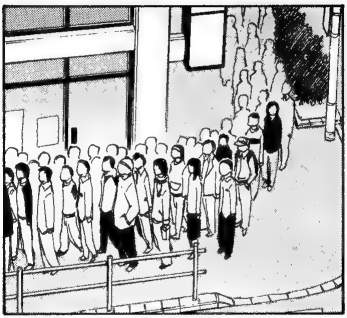
YEAH? WELL, I USED TO THINK YOU WERE THE MOST ANNOYING PERSON ON EARTH.

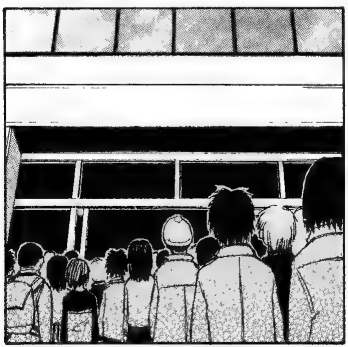
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE I REALIZED YOU WOULD ONLY GIVE ME THAT LOOK.
YOU'D ALWAYS LOOK AT ME WITH THIS DEADPAN LOOK, LIKE YOU THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS LOWER THAN YOU.
THAT'S TRUE. BUT LATELY, I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT WHAT YOU TOLD ME.
?
YOU REALLY WERE ONE RUDE LITTLE KID, SATOU-KUN!
I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW!

EXCUSE ME? WHY DON'T YOU TRY SOME HARD WORK SOMETIME?
DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF ALWAYS TRYING SO HARD?
HEY, PRESIDENT!
...IF YOU KEEP DOING WHAT OTHERS WANT YOU TO DO...
...ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS BEING A SLAVE?
HARD WORK, SHMARD WORK!
THAT MIGHT FLOAT YOUR BOAT JUST FINE, BUT...

EVEN AS TIME PASSED, YOUR WORDS RANG IN MY EARS.
I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD, AND EXPERIENCED ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
I-I SAID THAT?!
YES, YOU DID!
THEY'VE HELPED ME STOP DOING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE WANTS ME TO DO AND TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO!
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WHATEVER I WANT LITTLE BY LITTLE!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, SATOU-KUN?
EVERYTHING'S CHANGED AFTER MEETING MY PARTNERS!


I'LL LET YOU MEET THEM, TOO, SATOU-KUN!
I'M SURE THEY'LL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!





HUH?

ポジティブ！

ポジティブ！

ポジティブ！

ポジティブ！

ポジティブ！

Wonderful Life

My Wa

WELCOME TO YOU ALL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! MY COMRADES IN ARMS, WHO HAVE GATHERED FROM EVERY CORNER OF THIS NATION! LET ME FIRST SAY, THANK YOU FOR COMING!
THANK YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH!
YES...
ポーズィティブ
POSITIVE

I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU OUT THERE!
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE?
IS IT MONEY? NO! IS IT FAME? NO! IS IT LOVE? CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE!
THE MOST VITAL AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO LIFE, ARE...
...YOUR DREAMS!
BUT SUCH THINGS ARE NOT SO EASY TO COME BY IN THIS WORLD. NO SIR, THEY'RE NOT, AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF!
I MYSELF HAVE HAD COUNTLESS DREAMS SO FAR ONLY TO HAVE THEM ALL CRUSHED!

ALL THAT ENDS TODAY!
BUT LET ME NOW MAKE THIS DECLARATION!
My Way
NOW, PLEASE! TAKE A STAND! YOU COULD BE NEXT!
THROUGH MY COMPANY, MY WAY, YOUR PREDECESSORS ARE MAKING 3,000,000 TO 4,000,000 YEN A MONTH!
HUH?!
ER, VISITING HOURS ARE NOW OVER.

Welcome to the BLUE BIRD!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

#13 Welcome to the BLUE BIRD!

Continued in Episode #14...

Welcome to the NHK! 4-Panel Comic—#11

...I WILL STOP BEING A HIKIKOMORI!
STARTING TODAY...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! THINK AGAIN, SATOU-KUN!
Absolutely Not!
WHY?!
DON'T QUIT JUST YET!
IF YOU DO, THEN TWO CREATORS, WHOSE NAMES I SHALL NOT DISCLOSE, WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS AND WIND UP AS HIKIKOMORI!
Anybody can find a job!
You're not getting away, Satou-san!
SOME EVEN IN CRAPPY MAGAZINES...
Shonen Ace!!

Chapter 14 Welcome to the MY WAY!

I'M OKAY.

IT'S OKAY!

IT'S OKAY!

ジャ
OKAY, THEN!
WE'RE OFF, SATOU-KUN!

WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO GO BACK HOME, HUH?!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN PAY MY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TUITION!
I...
...ALREADY...
...TOLD YOU!!
YAMAZAKI-SAN! IT'S AN EMERGENCY! SATOU-KUN'S RUN AWAY!
NOW YOU'RE JUST ASKING TOO MUCH, WANTING ME TO COME HOME! AND JUST WHO WAS IT THAT SAID YOU WERE CUTTING ME OFF LAST TIME?!

P
WHAT DO WE DO?! YOU DON'T THINK HE'S THINKING OF COMMITTING SUICIDE AGAIN, DO YOU?
COME ON, YAMAZAKI-SAN! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE?!
sigh...
WHAT'S THIS? YOU'RE STILL HERE? YOU SAY SATOU-SAN'S LEFT THE HOUSE?
WELL, THEN IT SEEMS YOU'VE CURED HIM OF HIS HIKIKOMORI DISEASE. GOOD FOR YOU.
NO! THAT'S NOT IT! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS! I THINK HE'S TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM ME!

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE ABOUT YOU!
.....
11
TO BE HONEST, I'VE JUST ABOUT RUN OUT OF COMPASSION FOR HIM.
PERFECT TIMING.

I'M SO JEALOU--
I MEAN, UH... THAT CONCEITED BASTARD!
WAIT A MINUTE!
What gives?! This can't be real! It's unbelievable! It's unfair I tell you!
Just die already!
THAT...POOR EXCUSE FOR A MAN! DESPITE BEING NOTHING MORE THAN A ROTTEN APPLE, HE'S ALREADY GONE VACATIONING TO THE BEACH WITH HIS SENPAI AND IS NOW LIVING TOGETHER WITH SOME CRAZY GIRL!
AND YOU'LL HELP ME, NAKAHARA-SAN!
HE'S NOT A HIKIKOMORI ANYMORE!
I MUST REMIND HIM OF HIS PLACE.

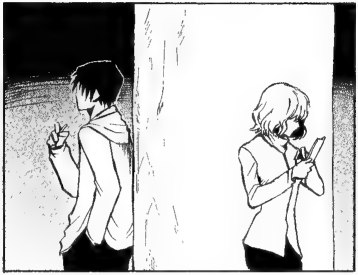
Heh heh heh heh heh!
AND WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL SHOW HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL HOW LOWLY HE IS.
ONE THING YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT THAT MAN IS, EVEN IF HE LEAVES HOME, HE ALWAYS COMES HOME AS SOON AS HE GETS HUNGRY.

Ha ha ha ha ha!
Aha ha ha ha ha!

Ha ha ha ha ha!

SO, SATOU-KUN? WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE CONFERENCE?

YES.
I'LL DO JUST THAT.

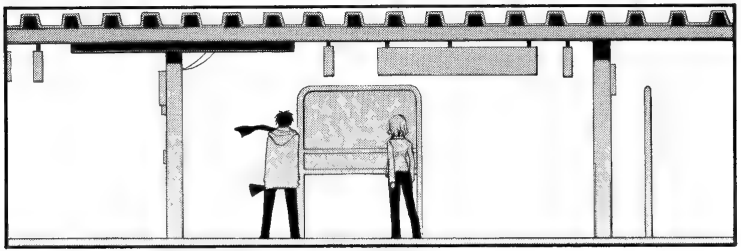


PRECISELY! HE REALLY IS AMAZING, ISN'T HE? AND SO IS THE *MY WAY* BUSINESS MODEL AND THE PRODUCTS WE SELL!

OH, IT WAS AWESOME! I STILL DON'T QUITE GET WHAT HE WAS SAYING, BUT...
...I SUDDENLY FEEL... REJUVENATED!

RIGHT NOW WE'RE GOING TO A WEEKLY MY WAY MEETING!
AMONG THE UPPER-CLASS, OUR SUPPLIERS ARE GREATLY RESPECTED.
CELEBRITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD LOVE THE MY WAY PRODUCTS.
A SUPER SUPPLIER...?
OF COURSE, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU HAVE TO JOIN OR ANYTHING, BUT...
THE ONE YOU'LL BE MEETING TODAY IS...
...AS AN OUTSIDER, YOU NORMALLY WOULD NEVER GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH ONE OF THE SUPER SUPPLIERS.
...THE LEGENDARY SAGAWA-SAN, WHO MADE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A FERRARI IN UNDER ONE YEAR!

A FERRARI IN A YEAR?!
THAT'S AMAZING! THAT'S THE JAPANESE DREAM! NO, IT'S A MIRACLE!
NOW IS THE TIME FOR SATOU TATSUHIRO TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TOWARDS SUCCESS!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, RUNNING INTO THE CLASS PRESIDENT IN THE HUGE CITY LIKE THIS IS NOTHING SHORT OF FATE!
AND IT'S FATE THAT SHE'S OFFERED ME THIS CHANCE!

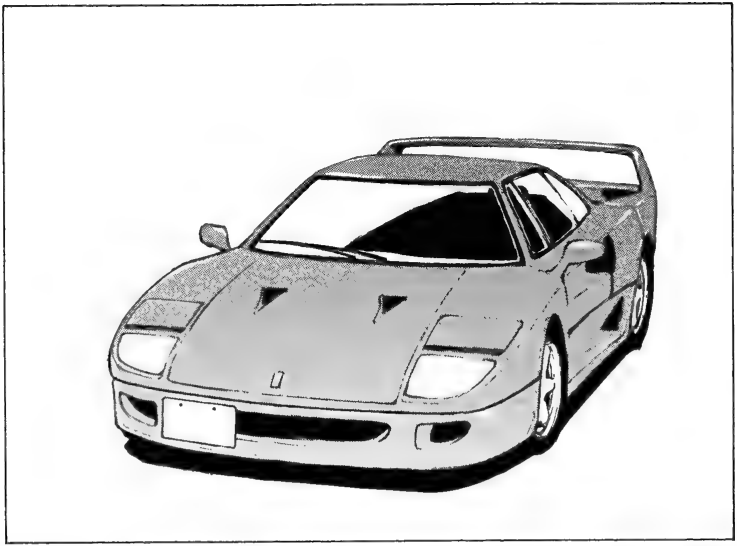


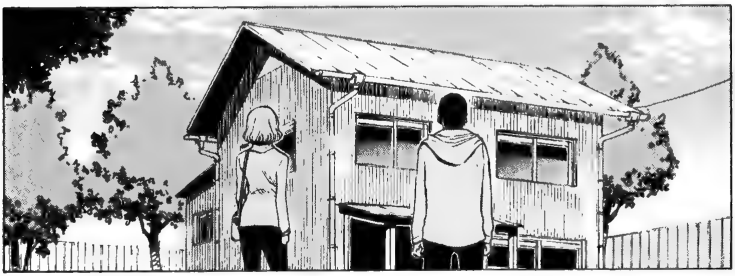
NOW WE WALK, SATOU-KUN!
WHAT?!
DID YOU SAY, WALK?!

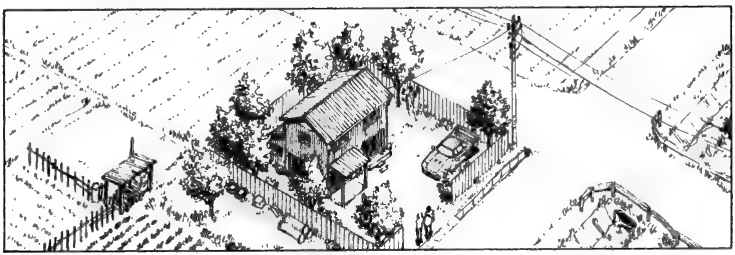
BUT OF COURSE! IT'S QUITE A WAYS TO SAGAWA-SAN'S HOUSE.
QUITE A WAYS? BUT THERE'S...

...NOTHING OUT HERE.
COME NOW, SATOU-KUN! LOOK AT ALL THIS BEAUTIFUL PAMPAS GRASS.
BUT THERE'S ONLY PAMPAS GRASS!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE'S A REAL SUPER SUP-WHATCHAMACALLIT WHO'S RESPECTED BY CELEBRITIES WORLDWIDE LIVING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?!
IT'S A SUPPLIER! GET IT RIGHT!

SATOU-KUN, ARE YOU DOUBTING ME?
WHO *WOULDN'T* DOUBT YOU?
LOOK! IT'S ALMOST TWO O'CLOCK NOW! IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL MISS THE MEETING!
QUIT CHANGING THE SUBJECT!
No! I don't want to! I wanna go home!
You'll see a Ferrari before you know it!
NOW SHUT UP AND COME WITH ME!
IT'LL BE FINE! YOU'LL SEE IN NO TIME JUST HOW REAL IT IS!
YOU'RE LYING! IT HAS TO BE A LIE!







EXCUSE ME?
SEE? JUST AS I SAID. A SUPER CAR!
OOOOOH, KOBAYASHI-SAN, OF COURSE. WE'RE ALREADY INSIDE.
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?
HELLO! IT'S KOBAYASHI.
I BROUGHT HIM WITH ME!

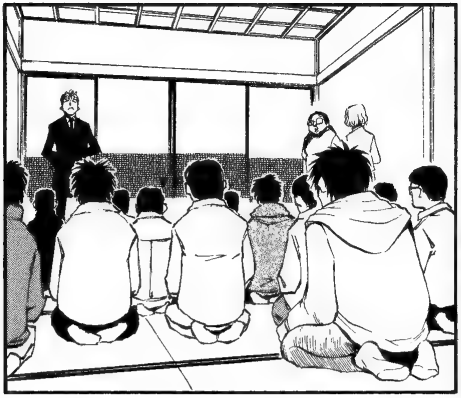
NO. THAT'S KUROKAWA. HE'S A MID-LEVEL SUPPLIER, LIKE ME!

HEY, IS THAT SAGAWA-SAN?

SAGAWA-SAN WILL BE COMING FOR THE END OF THE MEETING AFTER WE EXPLAIN THE PRODUCTS.

PLEASE, COME IN.

THEY'RE MADE OF 100% PURE, NATURAL INGREDIENTS, SO IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
IT'S ONE OF MY WAY'S ORIGINAL FOODS!
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME. TRY THESE WHILE YOU WAIT.
WELL? TASTY, ISN'T IT?
SOMEHOW, I GET THE FEELING I'VE TASTED IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
Like, when I'm in a hurry.



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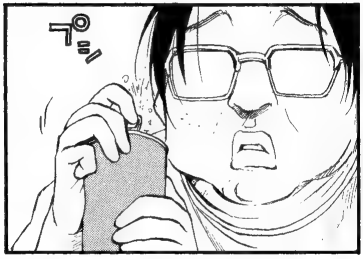
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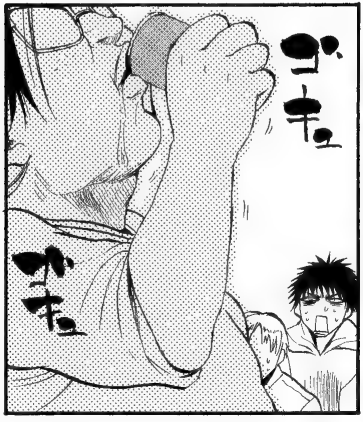
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YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S THE DELICIOUS TASTE OF ALL-NATURAL GOODNESS!
P'SHEW!
WOW, IS THIS DELICIOUS!
FROM THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM ALLERGIES, TO CHILDREN, TO THE ELDERLY, OUR JOB IS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST PRODUCTS FOR A BETTER, HEALTHIER LIFE!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE AT MY WAY ADVOCATE HEALTHY LIVING!
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FIRST WE HAVE OUR 100% ALL-NATURAL HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES!
NOW, THEN, BEFORE GETTING INTO THE PRODUCTS THAT WE SELL...
...WE'D LIKE TO DEMONSTRATE TO YOU FIRSTHAND JUST HOW SUPERIOR OUR PRODUCTS ARE TO THE REST.
HERE IS ANOTHER COMPANY'S SYNTHETIC DETERGENT.
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PUT EACH IN SEPARATE BOTTLES OF WATER.
LOOK AT THAT, KUROKAWA-SAN! THE MY WAY'S BOTTLE IS PERFECTLY CLEAR, WHILE THE OTHER ONE IS MURKY!
YES...YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S BECAUSE THE OTHER COMPANY'S HAS UNNECESSARY PRESERVATIVES MAKING IT CLOUDY.

OH MY GOSH! THE COMPETITOR'S PRODUCT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SOUND AT ALL!
NOW, IF I TRY SHAKING THESE TWO, YOU'LL SEE ANOTHER DIFFERENCE!
ニバカ…
ニバカ…
PRECISELY! THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY BUBBLES TO MAKE ANY NOISE!
BUT A WASHING MACHINE USES THE POWER OF THE WATER AND THE FRICTION OF CLOTHES RUBBING AGAINST EACH OTHER, SO THAT MAKES IT USELESS!
RIGHT! THAT'S HOW YOU CAN SEE HOW CLEARLY THE MY WAY DETERGENT IS BETTER!
!
!?
!
!

NOW THAT YOU ALL UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF MY WAY...
...I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE SUPER SUPPLIER, SAGAWA-SAN!
Bravo! Amazing!
WHO WANTS TO TAKE A RIDE IN MY FERRARI?
HEY, EVERYONE! I KNOW WHAT YOU ALL DREAM ABOUT!
I WAS ABLE TO TURN MY DREAM INTO A REALITY WITH MY WAY! I KNOW ANY ONE OF YOU CAN DO THE SAME!
ANYONE INTERESTED, PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND MY LECTURES!
OOOH!
YAAAY!

UH... PRESIDENT?
YES? WHAT IS IT, SATOU-KUN?
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BECOME A SUPPLIER?
HMM, AFTER THE COST OF LECTURES AND BUYING THE GOODS... ABOUT 2,000,000 TO 3,000,000 YEN, I SUPPOSE.
AND THE MORE PEOPLE YOU SIGN UP, THE MORE YOU MAKE?
YES! BOY, YOU CATCH ON QUICK!
WELL, UH, THIS IS SORTA HARD TO SAY, BUT...
YES? YES?
TH-THIS WHOLE THING...
YES, YES, YES?

...TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, IS A PYRAMID SCHEME, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT...
YOU FUCKHEAD! YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE ME FOR ANOTHER SUCKER?!
HEY, WAIT!

SATOU-KUUUUN!
HEH HEH...
Ha ha ha ha...
BOY, WILL HE BE IN FOR A SURPRISE WHEN HE GETS HOME.
TODAY, HE'LL FINALLY UNDERSTAND HIS PLACE!

DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!
ヒュオ
UGH!
FUUUUCK!
だらー
IT'S LIKE EVERYONE'S TRYING TO PLAY ME FOR A SUCKER. JUST HOW LONG DO THEY NEED TO BELITTLE ME TO FEEL BETTER?
IT'S LIKE THEY ENJOY HATING ON AN UNEMPLOYED HIKIKOMORI LIKE ME!

NO, YOU'RE WRONG!
I'M WRONG?! JUST HOW AM I WRONG?!
SATOU-KUN, WAIT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? GO HOME! I'M NOT A SUCKER LIKE THOSE OTHER LOSERS!
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO USE ME! YOU BUILD UP THOSE IDIOTS' HOPES AND FLATTER THEM JUST TO MAKE THEM BUY YOUR PRODUCTS!
YOU WOULD EVEN PREY ON A LONG LOST CLASSMATE YOU FOUND ON THE STREET TO MEET YOUR OWN QUOTA!

I MAY HAVE TRIED TO TRICK YOU INTO BUYING MORE DETERGENT THAN YOU COULD EVER USE IN A YEAR.
THEN THERE WERE THE ALL-NATURAL FOODS, THE PANS AND KETTLES...
YES...
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M THE ONE AT FAULT HERE!
BUT, I COULDN'T HELP IT!
!
I-I'VE BEEN WORKING NONSTOP SINCE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL TO PAY OFF MY STUDENT LOANS.
I CAN'T STAND BEING ON THE SIDE THAT IS TRICKED!
BUT I'M SICK OF BEING DECEIVED BY PEOPLE ANYMORE!

NO MATTER HOW MANY OTAKU I DUPED INTO BUYING, I'D JUST BE SQUEEZED FOR MORE BY THE ONES ABOVE ME.
I WAS TOLD DRESSING UP IN COSPLAY TO SELL JEWELS AT A JEWELER'S SHOP PAID WELL, SO I DID IT.
BUT IN REALITY, IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, NOW I'VE ACCRUED 5,000,000 YEN IN DEBT SINCE ENTERING MY WAY!
!

*The idea that one person's gain is another person's loss, leaving the total at zero.

THIS GAME OF LOOKING DOWN OR BEING LOOKED DOWN UPON BY OTHERS... IT'S A ZERO-SUM GAME*!
YOU UNDERSTAND THIS IS A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD, RIGHT?!

DON'T YOU SEE, SATOU-KUN? EVERYONE IS USING YOU!
SOCIETY NEEDS YOU TO REMAIN A HIKIKOMORI! THEY NEED PEOPLE THEY CAN LOOK DOWN ON!
YOU'RE SMART, YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED THIS BY NOW.
DON'T YOU FEEL THE HATEFUL LOOKS OF EVERYONE AROUND YOU?!
!

THAT'S RIGHT. SOCIETY WORKS OFF OF SLAVES LIKE YOU.
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT! I WANT YOU TO TAKE THOSE FRUITLESS HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...
...AND TURN THEM INTO MONEY!
THIS TIME, IT'S OUR TURN TO BE ON THE SIDE THAT'S EXPLOITING OTHERS!
YES... I SEE IT NOW. I SEE IT!

WHAT'S THE POINT IN LIVING YOUR LIFE THINKING ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK?!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO GET MY REVENGE ON THEM!
Satou Thinking Pattern: Blame Others Mode.
I'LL SHOW ALL THOSE JERKS WHO MADE FUN OF ME!
YES! I'LL TAKE THEM ALL! THEN I'LL SELL THEM BACK TO THOSE BASTARDS!
AND FOR A LIMITED-TIME ONLY, I'LL GIVE THEM ALL TO YOU FOR 30% OFF!
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE PLENTY OF DETERGENT, NATURAL FOOD GOODS AND...OH, WATER FILTERS!
YOU DO UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, PRESIDENT! LET ME JOIN YOUR TEAM!

DING DONG
YAMAZAKI, ARE YOU HERE?!

佐藤!!

Happy Birth day!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SATOU-SAN!

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HUH"?! SATOU-SAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT ABOUT YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY!

.....

HUH?

MY WAY

SOB... SOB...!
... SATOU-SAN?
It's really not that big of a deal
WE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY MAKING YOU A BIRTHDAY CAKE FROM SCRATCH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
Satou-kun Happy Birthday!
SEE?
I... I...
I'M SO SORRY, YAMAZAKI. MISAKI-CHAN.
I'M SORRY.
AND SO SATOU'S 23RD BIRTHDAY ENDS WITH HIM WANTING TO JUST DISAPPEAR.
AND NOW SATOU TATSUHIRO OWES 1,000,000 YEN TO MY WAY.
Welcome to the MY WAY!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

#14 Welcome to the MY WAY!

Continued in Episode #15...

Welcome to the NHK! 4-Panel Comic — #12

THIS YEAR ONCE AGAIN THE CURSED SEASON COMES.
CHRISTMAS, THE DREADED HOLIDAY THAT DEFIES OUR VERY EXISTENCE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YAMAZAKI?! HOW CAN YOU STAND NOT BEING HAPPY FOR OTHER PEOPLE?
S-SENPAI!
B-but...
FIRST, WE'LL GREET THE LOVEY-DOVEY COUPLES GOING INTO THE CITY WITH FIRECRACKERS! THAT'S THE WAY YOU GIVE YOUR BLESSINGS...
Heh heh heh
ROGER THAT! I'M COMING WITH YOU!
THAT'S THE SOUND OF TWO LONELY MEN'S SOUL!
Immature Invincibility!
Shonen Ace!

SATOU-KUN, WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL OF THIS STUFF?

ヒクッ
I F-FOUND THEM...
ゴクン
...ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.
カチャ
……
SATOU-KUN, PLEASE! TELL ME THE TRUTH!
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE SUCH A BAD LIAR! WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS?!
TH-THE TRUTH IS...

Y-YOU ...
...BOUGHT THEM FOR A 1,000,000 YEN?!
W-WELL, THE THING IS...I THINK RETURNING THEM AFTER JUST BUYING THEM IS KIND OF EMBARRASSING, YA KNOW? I DON'T WANT TO BE A HASSLE OR NOTHING.
THIS IS HORRIBLE! WE HAVE TO RETURN THESE RIGHT AWAY!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
OH! I KNOW WHAT TO DO! MAYBE WE COULD SELL THEM TO SOMEONE ELSE!
I WON'T FORGIVE THEM FOR THIS.
WHO WOULD BE SO CRUEL AS TO SELL SOME GARBAGE TO SOMEONE WHO ALREADY HAS NO ABILITY TO SURVIVE?!
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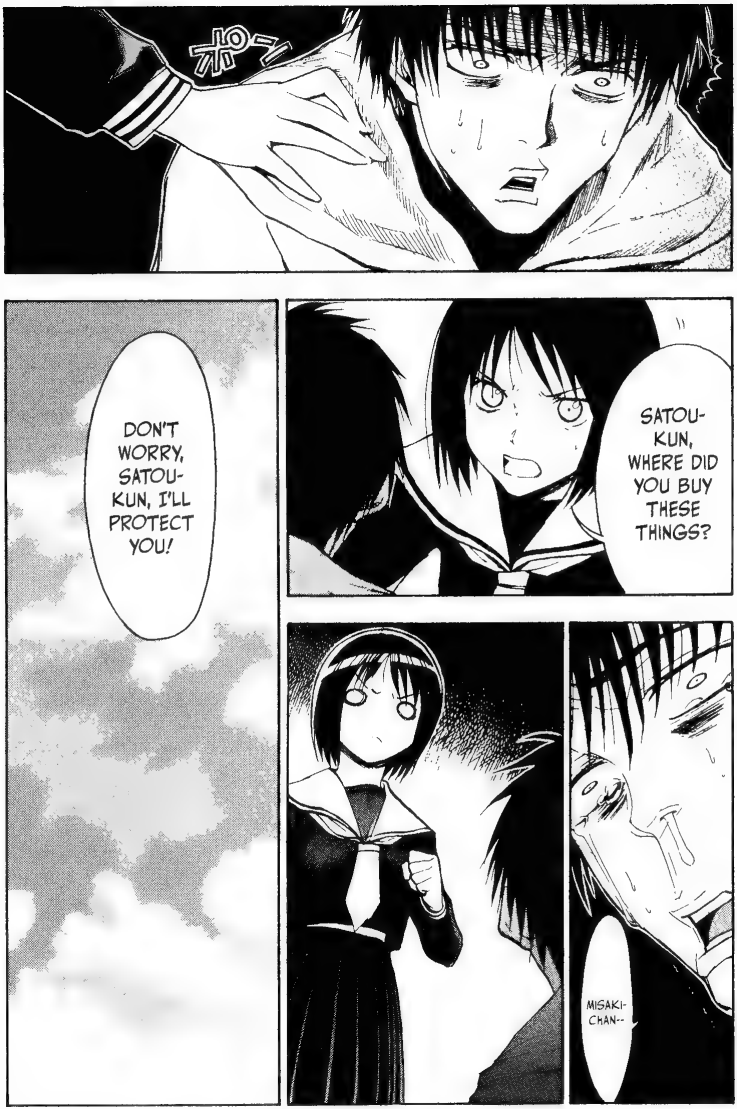
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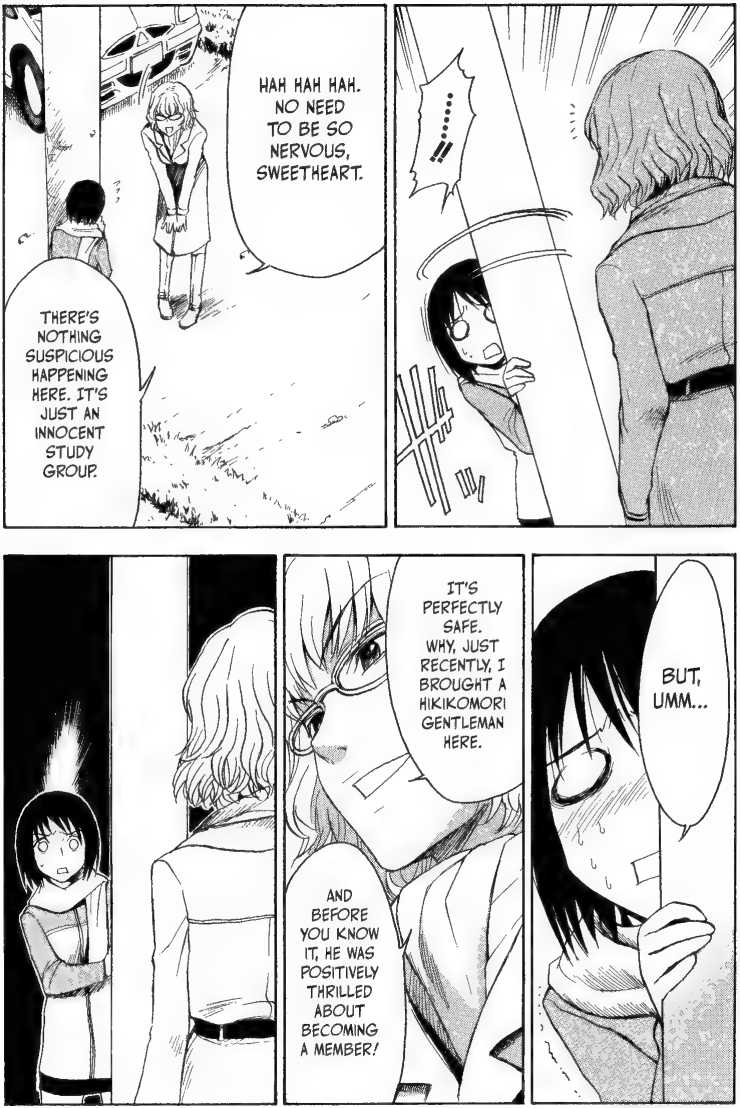
SATOU-KUN, WHERE DID YOU BUY THESE THINGS?
DON'T WORRY, SATOU-KUN, I'LL PROTECT YOU!
MISAKI-CHAN--

THAT'S WHAT I SAID TO SATOU-KUN, BUT..
Taking Down A Corrupt Business: A How To
.....
WHAT DO I DO?!
...IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET IN THERE BY MYSELF!
.....
HUH? EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU A NEWBIE?


HAH HAH HAH. NO NEED TO BE SO NERVOUS, SWEETHEART.
THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENING HERE. IT'S JUST AN INNOCENT STUDY GROUP.
!!
IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE. WHY, JUST RECENTLY, I BROUGHT A HIKIKOMORI GENTLEMAN HERE.
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, HE WAS POSITIVELY THRILLED ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER!
BUT, UMM...

YOU! YOU'RE HER!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT TRICKED SATOU-KUN INTO BUYING ALL THAT STUFF!
AND JUST WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
I'M...S-SATOU-KUN'S GUARDIAN!
A KIND AND GENTLE GUARDIAN. A-ALMOST LIKE A GUARDIAN ANGEL!
TH-THAT'S IT! I'M HERE TO RETURN THE GOODS! IF YOU SAY NO, THEN I'LL TELL THE POLICE ABOUT THIS! MULTILEVEL MARKETING SCAMS ARE AGAINST THE LAW!

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
OH! I REMEMBER NOW! M-MY DAD'S THE CHIEF OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE!
Taking Down A Corrupt Business: A How To
A- AND...
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I'LL TAKE BACK THE GOODS.
!
BUT...I FIRST HAVE TO GO HOME TO PICK UP THE PROPER FORMS.
WON'T YOU COME WITH ME?
VERY WELL, THEN.
sigh...

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HURRY UP AND GET IN!
SO WHAT? YOU SATOU-KUN'S LOVER OR SOMETHING?

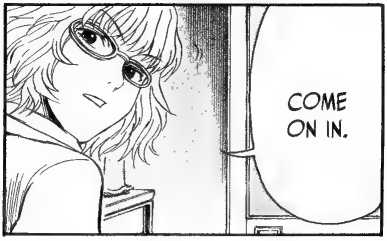
I AM MERELY AN ANGEL TO THE WEAK.
N-NO, I AM NOT!
OH? YOU SURE?
HUH...WELL, COLOR ME IMPRESSED.
AW, IT'S GOOD TO BE YOUNG!
REALLY!
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I HAD A BOY OR TWO I WAS PRETTY INTO.
BUT, KOBAYASHI-SAN, AREN'T YOU STILL YOUNG?

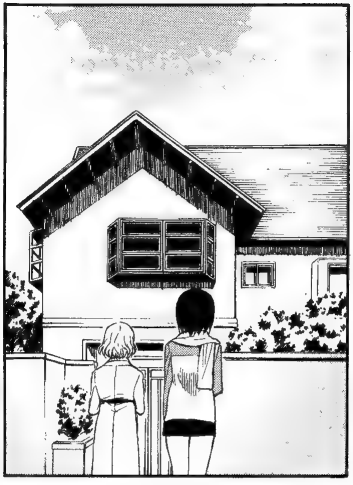
YOU THINK SO? STILL, I CAN'T WIN AGAINST A TEENAGER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL! I'LL BE 19 SOON!
BUT TODAY'S A SCHOOL DAY, ISN'T IT? WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
HUH. SO YOU'RE STILL 18.
DON'T TELL ME YOU ONLY GRADUATED FROM JUNIOR HIGH? LIFE MUST BE TOUGH.
THE WORLD ISN'T EASY WITHOUT A PROPER EDUCATION.
RIGHT?
HUH?

WH-WHAT?! THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! I'M JUST AN ANGEL, SO...
...I HAVE TO SAVE SATOU-KUN! I ONLY CAME TO RETURN THE PRODUCTS! THAT'S IT!
YOU STILL HAVE DREAMS AND AMBITIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO WASTE THEM ALL FOR A DAMN HIKIKOMORI?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
IT'S JUST THAT UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN SELLING PICTURES AND JEWELS TO OTAKU IN AKIHABARA.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
ALL RIGHT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

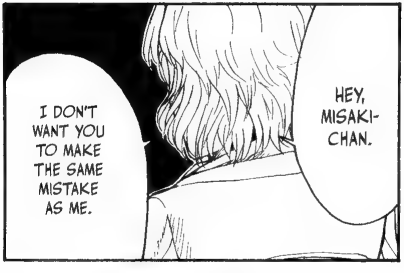
IT'S BECAUSE MY OLDER BROTHER...
...IS ONE OF THEM.
IT REALLY IS A TRAGIC STORY.
BUT BECAUSE WE'RE SIBLINGS, I WORKED HARD, BELIEVING IT WAS MY DUTY TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
BUT MY BROTHER NEVER TRIED LIFTING A FINGER TO WORK. HE'S SPENT THE PAST SIX YEARS COOPED UP IN HIS ROOM AND BEING A NUISANCE TO EVERYONE.
IT SOON PROVED USELESS TO EARN MONEY FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM.

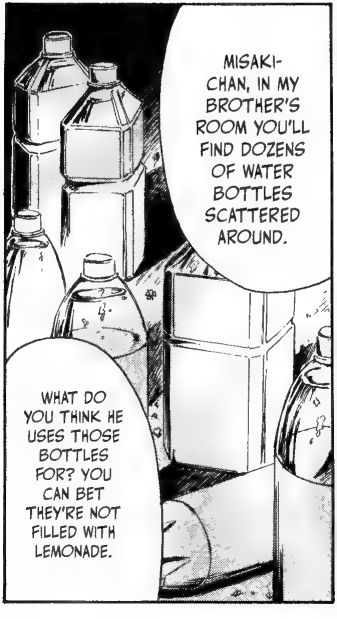
...INFERIOR SCUM LIKE HIM.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T HELP BUT HATE...
I ACTED AS IF I WAS A VILLAIN.
THAT'S WHY I SOLD JEWELS AT AKIHABARA.
I WORKED HARD, TAKING MONEY FROM SCUM TO HELP RAISE SCUM.
SOON ENOUGH, YOU'LL FIGURE OUT JUST HOW HORRIBLE LIVING WITH THAT KIND PERSON CAN BE.


COME ON IN.



SORRY FOR BARGING IN...


HEY, MISAKI-CHAN.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AS ME.


MISAKI-CHAN, IN MY BROTHER'S ROOM YOU'LL FIND DOZENS OF WATER BOTTLES SCATTERED AROUND.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE USES THOSE BOTTLES FOR? YOU CAN BET THEY'RE NOT FILLED WITH LEMONADE.

IT MUST FEEL GOOD BEING SUCH A WONDERFUL PERSON HELPING OUT LOSERS.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN MISLED.

MY BROTHER NEVER STEPS OUT OF HIS ROOM, SO CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HE USES THOSE BOTTLES FOR.
SATOU-KUN MAY ALSO END UP THAT WAY SOMEDAY.
IF YOU CONTINUE TO GIVE ALL OF YOURSELF, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING.
YOU THINK I'M LYING? THEN, TRY TAKING A LOOK BEHIND THIS DOOR.
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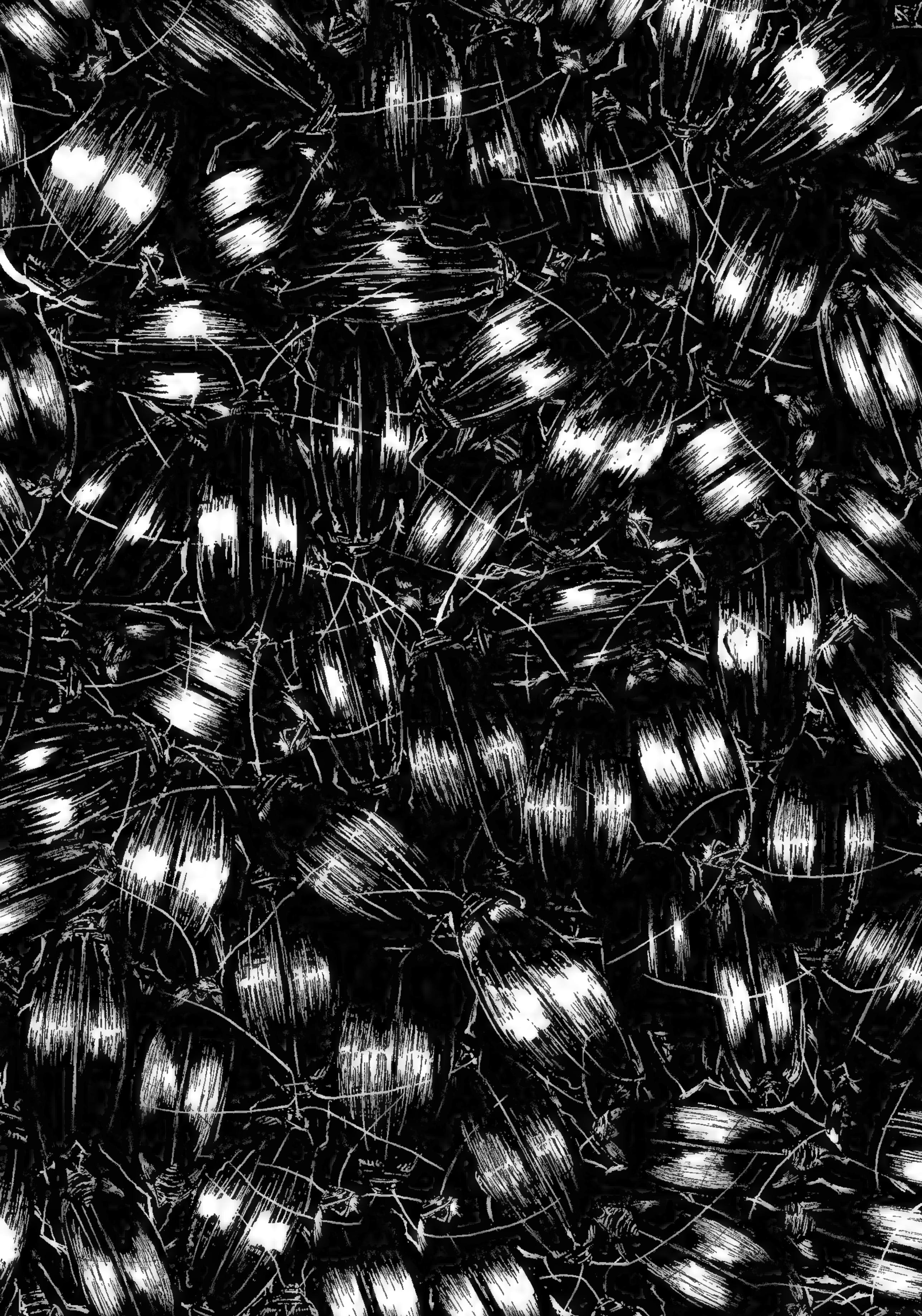
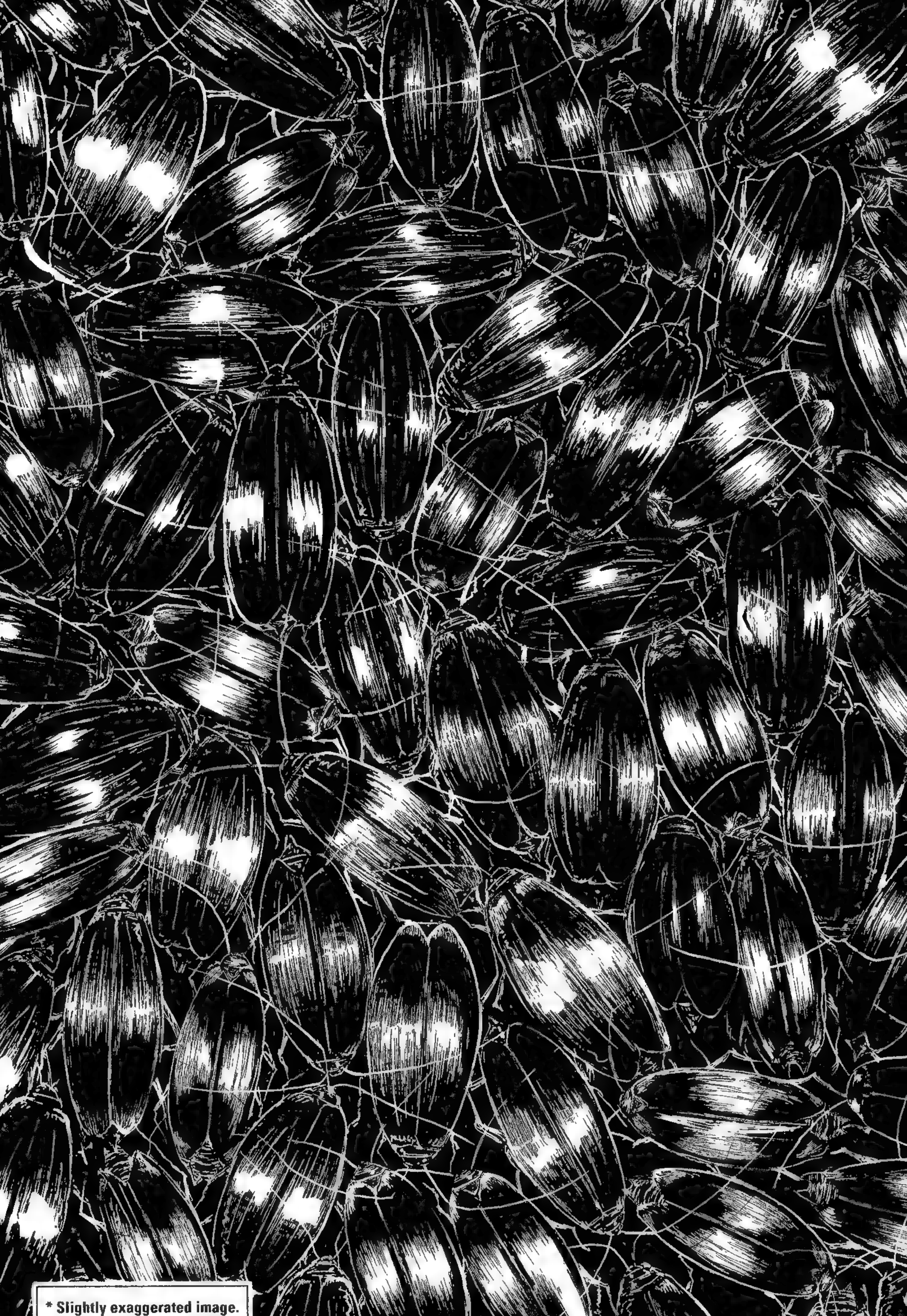
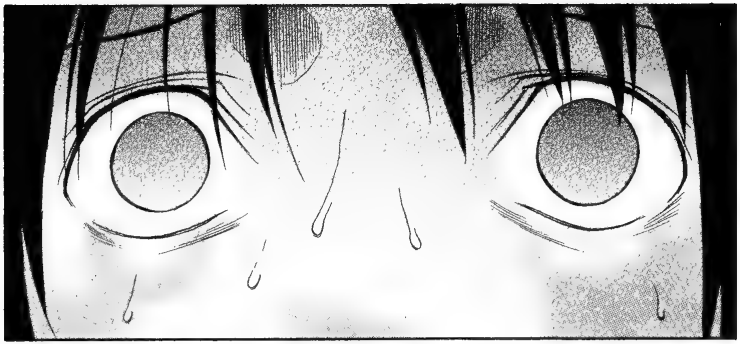
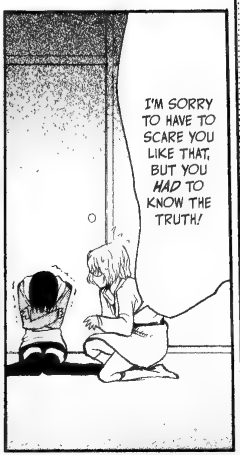


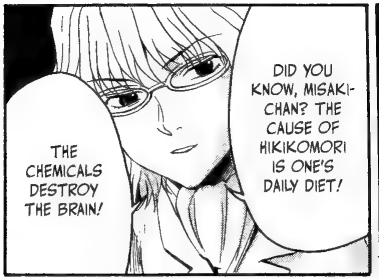

* Slightly exaggerated image.



MISAKI-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!


I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO SCARE YOU LIKE THAT, BUT YOU *HAD* TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

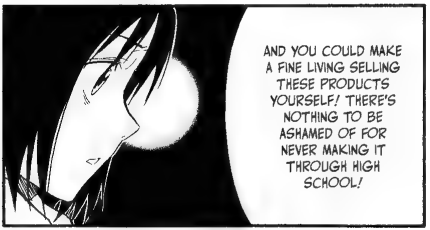
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO SATOU-KUN IF HE TURNS INTO THAT?


DID YOU KNOW, MISAKI-CHAN? THE CAUSE OF HIKIKOMORI IS ONE'S DAILY DIET!
THE CHEMICALS DESTROY THE BRAIN!

BUT EVER SINCE I STARTED FEEDING MY BROTHER THE MY WAY ALL-NATURAL FOOD PRODUCTS...
...HE'S BEEN GETTING BETTER AND BETTER!

SEE FOR YOURSELF. IF YOU GIVE THESE MY WAY SUPPLEMENTS TO SATOU-KUN, IT'LL SOLVE EVERYTHING!
MYWAY
supplements

BELIEVE ME!
YOUR BRAND NEW LIFE WITH MY WAY HAS JUST BEGUN!


AND YOU COULD MAKE A FINE LIVING SELLING THESE PRODUCTS YOURSELF! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF FOR NEVER MAKING IT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL!

GAAAH...

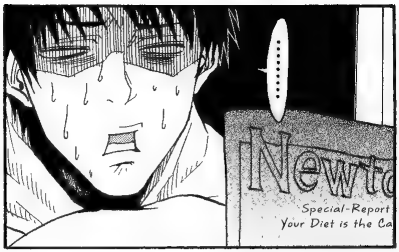
Mita House

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?! THIS IS BAD!

Leave it to me, Satou-kun!
WHAT AM I THINKING? I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN HER UNTIL SHE GETS BACK! COME HOME SOON!

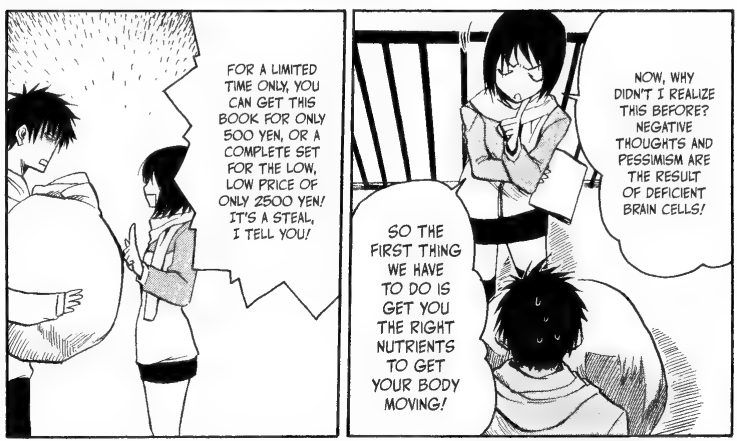
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PAY BACK 1,000,000 YEN? I WONDER IF MISAKI-CHAN WILL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
BUT I THINK SHE'S GOT A SCREW OR TWO LOOSE. SHE SEEMS... DUMB.

MISAKI-CHAN! HOW'D IT GO?! DID IT WORK OUT?!
SATOU-KUN! I'M HOME!
!
HERE! I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING!
UH...MISAKI-CHAN? WHAT'S IN THIS BAG?


.....
Newto
Special-Report
Your Diet is the Ca

SATOU-KUN! I REALIZE NOW THAT THE CAUSE OF HIKIKOMORI IS YOUR DAILY DIET!
ewton
Special-Report
Your Diet is the Cause of Hikikomori
WHAT YOU NEED IS A GOOD HELPING OF ALL-NATURAL INGREDIENTS!

I WAS WRONG ALL ALONG! HIKIKOMORI ARE HORRIBLE PEOPLE WHO AVOID WORK AT ALL COST!
SO AFTER YOU GET THE NECESSARY NUTRIENTS, YOU'LL BE READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD!


NOW, WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE THIS BEFORE? NEGATIVE THOUGHTS AND PESSIMISM ARE THE RESULT OF DEFICIENT BRAIN CELLS!
SO THE FIRST THING WE HAVE TO DO IS GET YOU THE RIGHT NUTRIENTS TO GET YOUR BODY MOVING!
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, YOU CAN GET THIS BOOK FOR ONLY 500 YEN, OR A COMPLETE SET FOR THE LOW, LOW PRICE OF ONLY 2500 YEN! IT'S A STEAL, I TELL YOU!

T-THIS... IDIOT!
THE HUNTER BECAME THE PREY!
SHE GOT DUPED, TOO!
KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY!
ALL-NATURAL FOODS, MY ASS! BRAIN CELLS, MY ASS! WAKE UP AND SMELL THE ROSES! YOU CAN'T BE THIS STUPID!

YOU'RE JUST DREAMING WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN!
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN THIS GET-RICH-QUICK BULLSHIT!
GASP!
WHY WON'T YOU JUST SEE THE WORLD FOR WHAT... IT...IS?
HELL, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS NOTHING SHORT OF RUNNING AWAY!
SEE THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS?
AM I TALKING ABOUT MISAKI-CHAN? NO, THAT'S NOT IT! THE ONE WHO'S REALLY RUNNING AWAY...

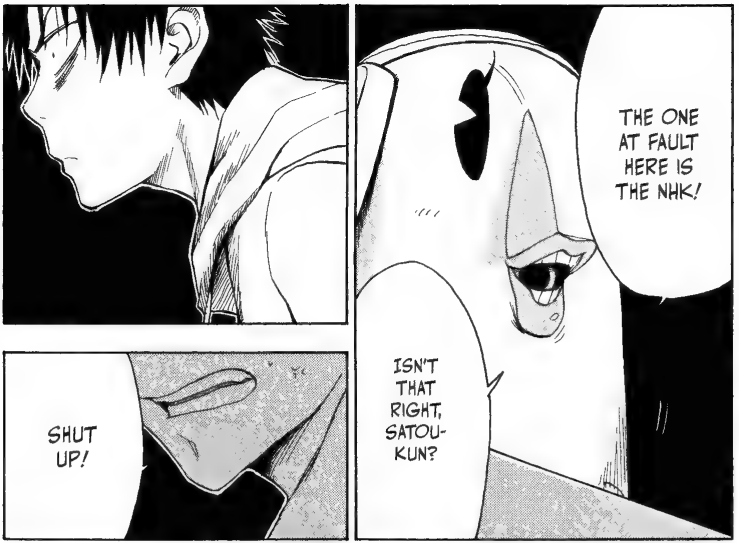
...IS ME.

WHAT? YOU'RE STILL HERE?

……

?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SATOU-KUN? I'VE BEEN ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT NEXT TO YA!
I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED. LIKE, WHEN YOU WENT TO THE BEACH WITH YOUR SENPAI...
...AND WHEN YOU TRIED MAKING A KILLING THROUGH ONLINE RMT.
YOU'RE WRONG, MR. REFRIG-ERATOR! SATOU-KUN HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
YOU'RE DOWNRIGHT DESPERATE TO ESCAPE REALITY.
IT'S REALLY QUITE HILARIOUS! YOU'RE PRETTY DUMB, IF YOU ASK ME. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO FACE IT.


THE ONE AT FAULT HERE IS THE NHK!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SATOU-KUN?
SHUT UP!

GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT ANY OF YOU SAY!
J-JUST--

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
I HATE YOU ALL!
.....

.....
WHAT DO YOU WANT? GO AWAY.
QUIT BOTH-ERING ME.
IF YOU SLEEP WITH DOGS, YOU'LL WAKE WITH FLEAS. UNDERSTAND?

!
Uh...
HUH?!
I MEAN, ER--! I'M SORRY!
I-I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO HARSH.
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M THE BAD ONE HERE.

BUT I REALIZE NOW... THAT I'M NO GOOD...
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY ALL ALONG, JUST LIKE YOU SAID. I JUST WANTED TO FEEL LIKE I WAS SAVING YOU. LIKE I WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO YOU.
N-NO! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
YOU'VE BEEN A HUGE HELP TO ME, MISAKI-CHAN!
SATOU-KUN...

LET'S START OVER. RIGHT HERE, IN THIS PARK.

S-SURE THING!
THAT'S A PROMISE.

Welcome to the H.I.V.E.

#15 Welcome to the REFRAIN!

Continued in Volume 04...Now Loading.

山崎君。君がこの手紙を読んでいるころ、俺はきっと隣の部屋で寝ているだろう。どうか起こさないで欲しい。どうか君は俺にかまわず什々木のアニメ学校に登校して欲しい。たとえこの手紙に激しい怒りを覚えたとしても、とにかくなにももう考えたくらい俺は疲れて寝てるから。どうか俺のことはそっとしておいて欲しい。

とはいえ今日は、確かに例の〆切の日だ。「エロゲシナリオを今日までに書き上げる!!」という約束を俺は確かに君と交した。わかってる。忘れたわけじゃない。見そこなわないでくれ。俺が人との約束を軽々しく反古にするような男じゃないってことは、君はわかってくれてるよな。俺が頑張って書いたあのエロゲ企画書を見れば、誰にだってわかるだろって俺がエロゲー業界に入れ込んでいたことは誰の目にも明らかだ。時流を読んだ斬新なコンセプト、鋭いマーケティング、芳醇な萌えと泣くにやさしいヒロイン……あんな企画書は、本気の男にしか書けない。そして俺は本気だった。本気だからこそ、〆切に遅れた。はからずも〆切を破ってしまった!!

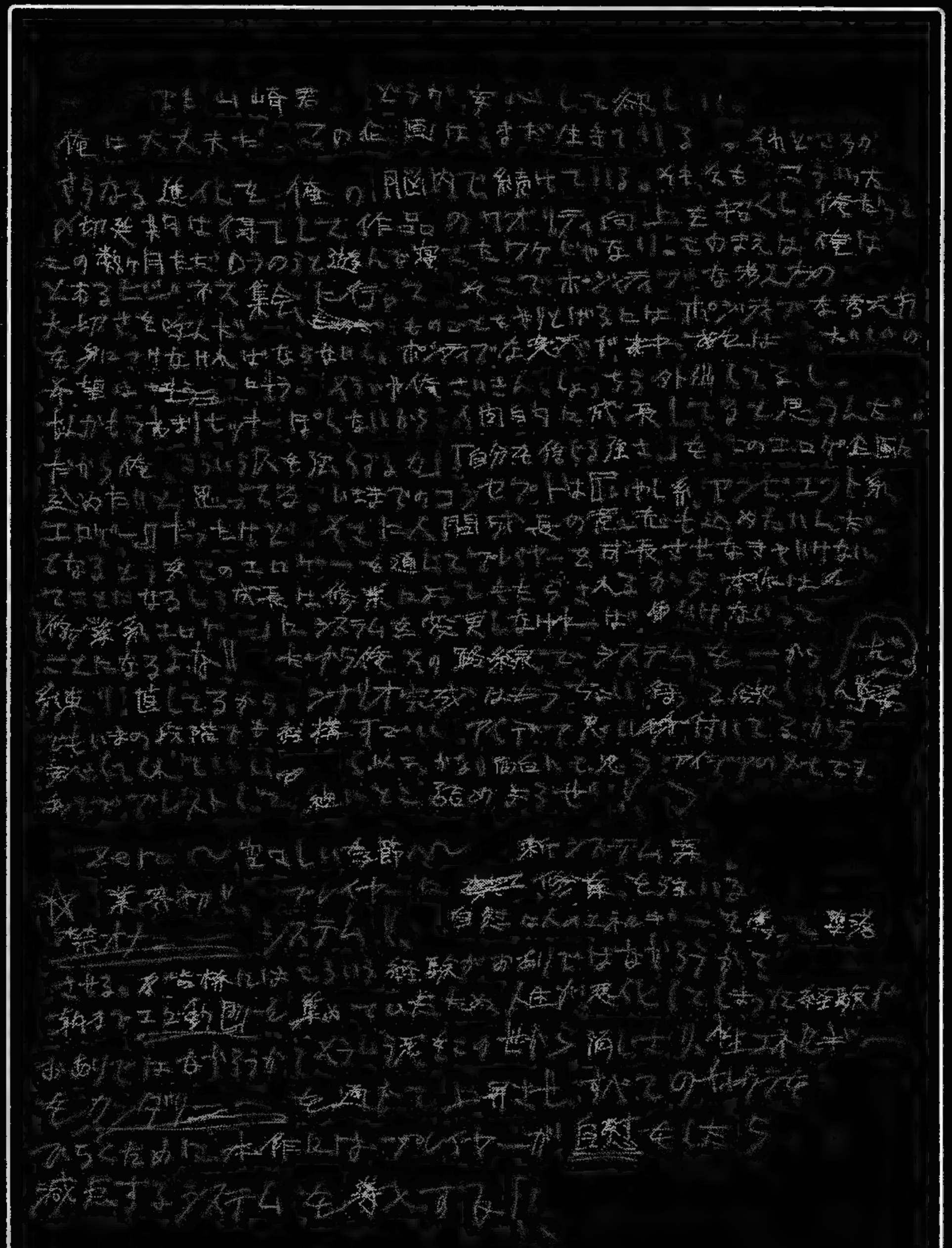
そういうことってよくあるよな?

なあ!

Yamazaki-kun. If you're reading this, it probably means I'm already sleeping in the other room. Please don't wake me up! All I ask is that you don't bother with me and that you attend the Yoyogi School of Animation. Even if this letter pisses you off so much when you read it, please just let me be. Don't even bother trying to wake me, cuz I'm so dead-tired. I don't want to think about anything. See, the thing is, today is the deadline and I know I promised you that I would be finished writing our hentai game script by today. I know. I haven't forgotten. But don't misjudge me. You know better than anyone that I *claim* to be a man of my word and that I'm not the type of person to break a promise. Anyone who saw the outline proposal I wrote for the game would understand what kind of person I am. It should be clear to anyone how serious I am about the world of hentai gaming. The concepts are unique and up to date with the times. The clever marketing, the gentle and heart-wrenching heroine that players will love. Only a passionate man could write such a proposal. I was passionate. It's because I was passionate that I missed the deadline. I didn't realize I'd miss the deadline! I'm sure that sort of thing happens all the time, right? Right?!

Special Feature: Letter to Yamazaki ~Ero-Game

Back in the day, when we were still simple wanderers, we weren't able to figure out the difference between *Shonan Bakusouzoku* and *Oretachi Hyoukinzoku**. (Unbelievable, I know.) If there was one thing we could do, it was to get giddy over the words of poor Mr. Fish who mixed up "wind instrument club" and "water tank club," and...



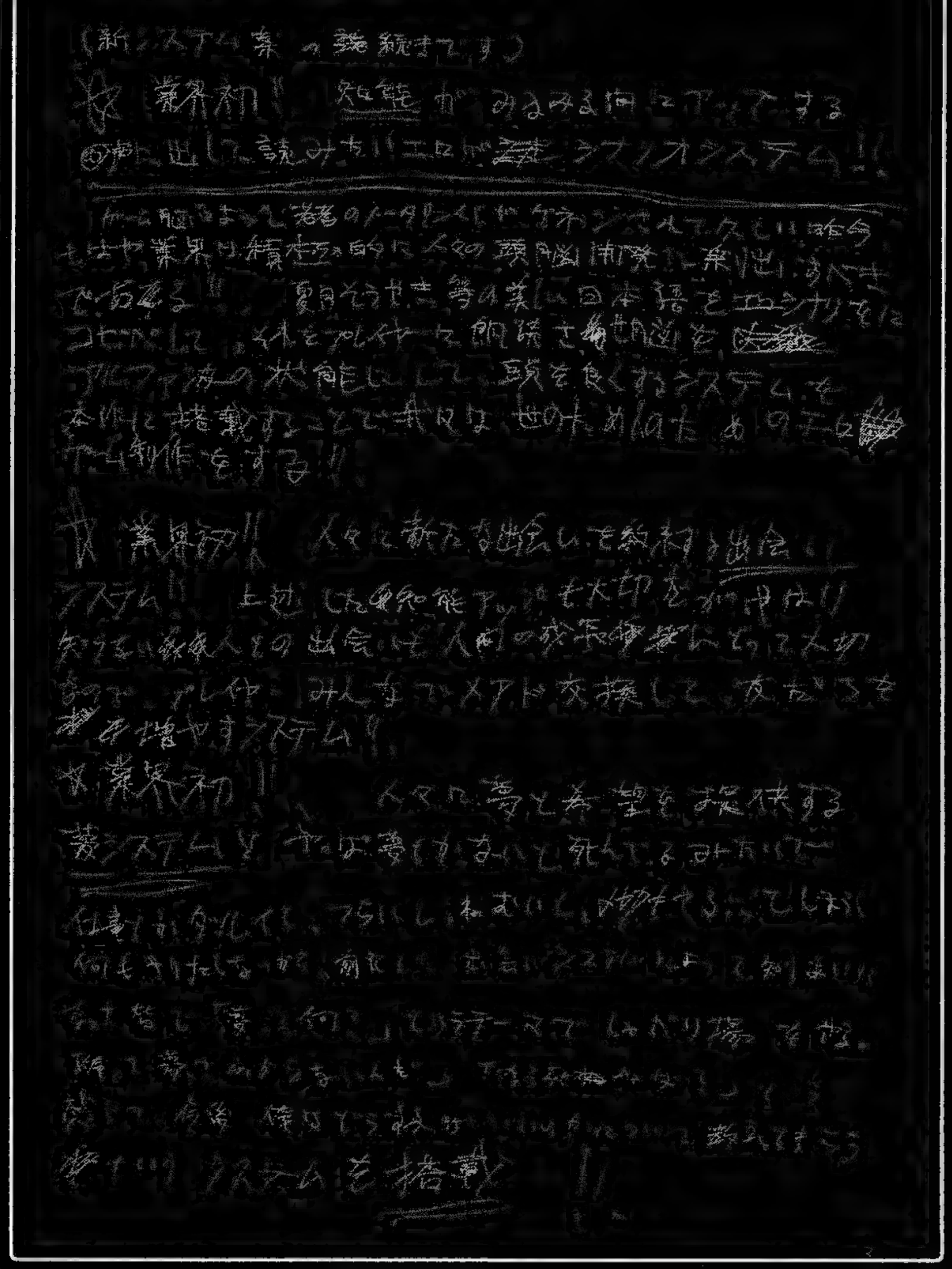
...But really, Yamazaki-kun, I want you to feel completely at ease. I'll be all right. The proposal still lives. In fact, it's growing even bigger inside my brain. I propose that we postpone the deadline to allow for further development of the game. I mean, I wasn't just lounging around and sleeping through the day for fun! Why, just the other day, I went to a business lecture and learned how important a positive outlook is. In order to accomplish your goals, you must have an optimistic disposition. Optimism will make your dreams come true. Just look at the fact that I went on a business trip recently. I'm becoming less and less like a hikikomori. I feel that I've grown as a human being. That's why I think it's necessary that we include themes about personal growth and perseverance into our hentai game's pitch. Our previous concept involved greed and ambivalence, but I feel we should also involve more about human growth. Doing so would encourage players to feel free to develop themselves through the erotic game. We could change the game to be the first *Educational Hentai Game*. That will teach them! (Heh!) So, being that we'll be starting over from square one again, I ask that you wait a little longer for me to complete the script. But don't worry, I've already thought up tons of ideas for this, so it'll be okay. (Below you'll find my ideas, which I'm sure you'll find to be interesting. Then, after some brainstorming we go over the details together!)

ZERO ~ the false season~ New System Plan

☆ The industry's first Anti-Jerk-Off system where players are forced to learn! Self-pleasure saps men of their chi and is the first step down the path of depravity. Haven't you all experienced this at least once in your life? I say, we banish this evil from the earth, channel your sexual energy and raise your chakra level! And to ensure all this, I introduce to you a brand new type of video game system that subtracts points for players who get caught masturbating!

Proposal "ZERO ~the false season~" Production Notes

...cling to the tetherball pole on the playground or only borrow (steal) the flute of your beloved girlfriend. Back then we didn't know about things like hikikomori or NEET. I didn't even know about hay fever. No, not us. But even now we forget about that time. For having chased after our dreams so intently, we became Dream Hunters. The password is "Heart Throb Again!" (Incomprehensible rantings).



(New System Plan cont.d)

☆ The industry's first Educational Hentai Game would make the player shout out loud at how fast their IQ level is rising. It would make them wanna pick up a book and read! Nowadays, the youth of the nation are degenerating into idiots thanks the poison that is video games. So I say, now is the time for the industry to produce educational games that aid in their brain development! Copy and paste great works by Natsume Souseki and other geniuses of Japanese literature into the games and force players to read them aloud. With this, we're making an erotic game that helps everyone!

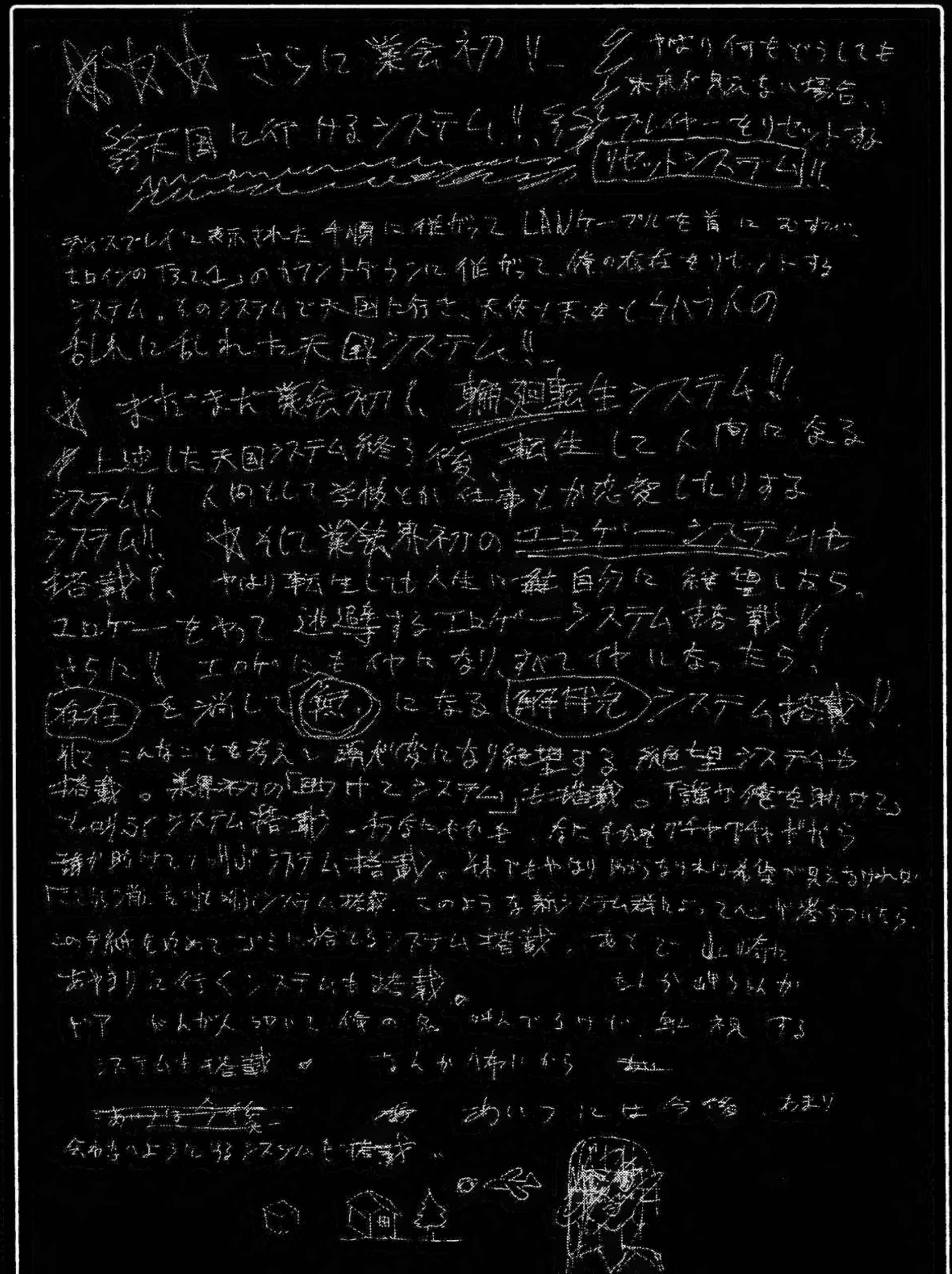
☆ The industry's first networking system that promises you will meet new people!

The industry's first person-to-person networking and dating site inside a video game. As mentioned before, increasing one's intelligence is an important factor in our game, but meeting new people is also vital for human development! This system is designed to enable players to make more friends by providing both networking and dating services directly into the online version of the game!

☆ The industry's first Dream Determination Program, or DDP, can offer players new dreams and hopes! It's obviously clear that a person would die without dreams and people are often discouraged and think that they hate work or that life's hard or that they're too tired to try or that they've miss their chance for a better life or that they don't deserve a better life. The new DDP will provide a pressure-free environment for players to ask their new friends about their dreams and goals. This new program will guide each player towards a series of tasks that is designed to help the player determine his own dreams and goals.

Extra TRACK—ZERO: The False Season

We've all had those nights where your head is filled with so many negative thoughts and feelings that you can't actually do anything. No one's blaming you. Most afternoons you're in the corner of a park where smiling children run around, but you're absorbed in reading some Tate Jun'ichi*. I can't help but think that your brain's a split second from frying, though that wouldn't change anything. So you see, your actions are all part of the modern illness and it's common knowledge that it is caused by those strange electro-magnetic waves emitted from Tokyo Tower. The problem



☆☆☆And also the industry's first videogame that enables you to go to heaven! It's the Reset System, or RS, that allows you to simply reset everything when you have absolutely no idea what to do with your life! It's the system where you can reset your life. Just follow the simple instructions displayed on the screen where you tie a LAN cable around your neck, then listen for the heroine's 3, 2, 1 countdown and reset your own existence. With this system you can go to heaven! Happy happy, crazy, crazy heaven with the angels and celestial maidens.

☆Wait, there's still more! This is the industry's first reincarnating videogame! After the completion of the RS, the Reincarnating System, or RiS, allows you to be reincarnated and return to earth as a human! You can then proceed to go to school, get a job, and fall in love!

☆And, it also features an industry first with its game system! See, even if you're reincarnated and you're still miserable with how your life turns out, you can play our hentai game and escape all your worries! If you ever get completely sick of our hentai game and everything all together, we have a Salvation System or SS to obliterate your very existence! Then there's the Despair System, or DS, for when you think, "God, just thinking about all of this is making me super crazy depressed!" Also introducing the industry's first Save Me System, or SMS. It's a magical system that actually cries out, "Somebody, save me!" Introducing the Oh My God, I Can't Take It Anymore, Somebody Save Me System, or OMGICTIASSMS; OMG for short. Then there's the I Just Want To Be Left Alone Sytstem, or IJWTBLAS; ME for short, for when no one comes to save you and you can't find any hope left. And if you're reading about all of our special feature systems and they have got you feeling down, we've got a whole new Crumple Up This Piece Of Paper And Throw It In The Garbage System, or CUTPOPATIIGS! There's also the Go Apologize To Yamazaki System, OR GATYS. And the Misaki-chan's Banging On The Door And Calling For Me But I'm Ignoring Her System. And the I'm Feeling Kinda Scared Right Now So I Don't Want To See Her System.

is of course, that I want so badly to stop thinking about you, but that alone won't solve the problem. Perhaps it's all the voices in my head, the *Hamyuun* and *higii higii* and *Onii-chan, I'll jump! I'll jump! I'm going to jump!* I have absolutely no idea where I heard those words before, but when I hear them I think of this script. Even if I did away with your mole (metaphor) where you popped your head out of the cellar, it'd be because I thought it from the bottom of my heart. In any case, the greatest doubt I have is that I wonder if this whole proposal part of the manga will also be translated when it's published abroad. *

100% TENNEN SOZAI
#11 Welcome to the ONLINE!
#12 Welcome to the LOCKED ROOM!
#13 Welcome to the BLUE BIRD!
#14 Welcome to the MY WAY!
#15 Welcome to the REFRAIN!
NO!
GGGGG
!?
DAME NINGEN BAKKA DEATH!!

Kadokawa Comics A~~~
Welcome to the N.H.K.!
TATUHIRO SATÔ
KASIW SENP
03
MISAKI NAKAHARA
HEPPOKO MANGA ZURA~~
YOMANA KYA KAKATO OTOSU!
YA!!
UHI?!
ME WO SAMASE!

Welcome to the Glossary!

Page 10
SA10
SA10 is Satou's handle when playing RPGs. The 10 can be pronounced as *tou* in Japanese, thus *SA10* can still be pronounced as Satou.
Page 8:

Page 190
"Shounan Bakusouzoku" (Roaring Clan of Shounan) and "Oretachi Hyoukinzoku" (We are Comedians) are a manga and anime series, and nighttime variety show from the late 1990's, respectively. "Wind Instrument club" and "water tank club" are both pronounced "suisougakubu" in Japanese.

Page 192
Tate Jun'ichi
Tate Jun'ichi (1943-) was a novelist born in Hokkaido.

Page 192
Editor's Note
Translating the crazy ramblings on these pages are a major pain in the ass but we at TOKYOPOP work hard to do them. It's worth it because they are absolutely hilarious and we hope you agree.